Bruce Lee adopts a self defence pose.

PANG CHENG LIAN REVEALS ALL ABOUT THE PAST LIFE, THE PRESENT POSITION AND FUTURE PLANS OF THE MAN OF THE BIG BOSS FAME: SHE HAD THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WHILE HAVING DINNER WITH HIM

Bruce Lee with Miao Ker Siew in Fist of Fury.

THE REAL BRUCE LEE

"Go on, feel it!" said Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong, thrusting his muscular chest forward.

The invitation came in the middle of my dinner with the man who has literally fisted his way to the top of the cinematic box office.

Producer Raymond Chow had arranged the small dinner in Hong Kong so that I could have an exclusive interview with Bruce Lee, and and the conversation had drifted to the arduous daily training that the actor has to undergo to keep his body fit.

The disarming actor wanted me to feel for myself that he has an excellent physique. So, throwing feminine inhibition to the winds, and, after obtaining Mrs. Bruce Lee's approval, I felt his abodmen which was as hard as a rock!

"It is not easy to develop the body to this state," Bruce Lee said with just a faint note of pride, "I have to train intensively everyday and do a lot of jogging."

NO PROBLEM

No wonder that he has no problem over "stand-ins" while filming. He said: "When I'm filming it is the other guy who has to worry about getting hurt."

Speaking excellent English — with liberal doses of Cantonese in between — the San Francisco-born actor who took up martial arts at the age of 13, went on to talk about his past life, present position and future plans.

He said: "I returned to Hong Kong when I was very young. And my original reason for studying martial arts was because I liked to fight. I was determined to win my fights.

"But later of course, I realised that this was a poor reason. I began to view pugilism more as an art, with its own philosophy of truth and life.

"I went back to the United States when I was 18 and began teaching martial arts. I also enrolled at a university, but before I could finish the course, I got involved in television.

"I decided to return to Hong Kong after seeing a couple of Chinese sword-fighting dramas in the States. I told myself, 'well maybe I could add my two bits,' so I came and the result was The Big Boss."

The Big Boss broke box office records when it was shown in Hong Kong and Singapore where its takings exceeded the epic, The Ten Commandments, but 31-year-old Bruce Lee brushed his overnight success aside with boyish casualness.

"Frankly, I was not too happy with it," he said with unexpected candour. "I felt we had too little time to work on it. Besides the character I played was such a simple person.

"I also didn't like the fact that the action was so long in coming. The fighting only took place in the second half of the film."

When I pointed out that his dialogue in the film consisted mainly of grunts and growls, Bruce Lee explained that there were two reasons for it.

He said: "Firstly I believe that motion pictures should deal mainly with action. Dialogue should be minimal.

"Secondly," he added with a twinkle in his eyes, "I don't speak Mandarin you see, so I keep my dialogue to the bare minimum."

In The Big Boss he came out with a variety of new pugilistic moves, the most well-known of which was his flying kick in which he gave three simultaneous kicks to the opponent's body at one go.

He vanquished his enemy in the film with a series of these, as well as some fast side-kicks and roll-kicks.

Fans have eagerly taken to his new brand of fighting, a self-concoction of and improvement on all other martial arts.

He has called it Jeet Kune Do, a potent weapon which has made him invincible (on the screen that is).

This actor, who receives a percentage of his films' takings besides salary, was more enthusiastic about his second film Fist of Fury, now showing in 15 theatres in Hong Kong. After two weeks of general screening it broke the box office record set up by the Big Boss.

"You must see it," he insisted. "The character Chan Chen that I play is a much more interesting figure. And the action begins right at the start."

Having seen the film in Hong Kong, it is difficult to disagree with him on this. The story takes place in early 20th century Shanghai, and Bruce Lee plays the role of a fierce Chinese patriot who pits himself against a gang of Japanese fighters who had poisoned his teacher.

The film has all the ingredients reqired of a box-office draw—plenty of action from Bruce Lee, scenes of tenderness including an exchange of kisses between Bruce Lee and actress Miao Ker Siew, a striptease act, and even an Amercian actor (one of Bruce Lee's former pupils in the U.S.) playing the role of a Russian who fights on the side of the Japanese.

Since the success of The Big Boss Bruce Lee has been offered a TV contract by Warner Brothers in the US but he has not accepted it.

"TV is not an easy business," he said. "Very often you get a few good plots at the beginning of a new series, but the stories soon run out and you are left with wishy-washy stuff."

Instead he intends to settle in Hong Kong with his family and continue with his film career. He is now looking for a house there for his wife Linda, and their two children aged seven and three.

The actor is very much of a family man and avoids social engagements as far as possible. He spends most of his time at home and prefers to read non-fiction books.

When asked whether he has set any limit to his acting career, Bruce Lee replied: "I will continue acting so long as I feel that I am being creative.

"The fact that my first two films have been successful means that I have to work even harder to keep up with the high expectations demanded of me."

For this reason Bruce Lee feels that he should only be involved in three films a year. This way he hopes to give sufficient attention to each of his films.

As for co-starring with other big-office draws among the Chinese actors and actresses, Bruce Lee said that this would depend on the script.

"If the script requires it, then I will do it," he said. "But we wil not get another actor for the sake of his name and then write a story for it."

"But what has happened to the arrogance that I have heard so much about?" I blurted out before I could stop mysef. It was difficult to imagine that the soft-spoken and good-humoured young man in front of me could be described as haughty.

"Oh yes I used to be quite arrogant, at least so I've been told," he said with a smile. "But it depends on the situation you see. There are times when people expect me to be arrogant so I purposely act so.

"It is quite fun really, to be watching yourself acting in an arrogant manner."

The unassuming actor was reluctant to discuss his views on other Chinese fighting dramas, but he indicated that his 12 years in America's film and TV world have helped in his development as an actor.

"The most important thing is a good script," he said. "The trouble with most Chinese fighting films is that the producers are more concerned with the violence than the story.

"The result is that they plan the fight-scenes and then weave a story round them. It should be the other way around.

"Another weakness is their treatment of the fighting sequences. They become so stereotype when in fact each fight should be different because the characters are different."

Bruce Lee is so meticulous that Golden Harvest is holding up the shooting of his third film because he is not completely satisfied with the script.

The actor is also writing the script for a film which will be produced by Concorde—a new company formed by Bruce Lee and Raymond Chow, the producer of his two films—later this year. It is possible that he will also direct the film.

Tentatively titled The Dragon, the film will be about a Chinese who goes to Europe today. Bruce Lee's Chinese name Hsiao Loong incidentally means "little dragon."

"But his mother used to call him Hsiao Fong 'little phoenix' when he was young," Mr. Raymond Chow said.

AMUSED

The formation of Concorde, however will not mean an end to Bruce Lee's acting for Golden Harvest. Mr. Chow explained that Bruce Lee would continue to act films produced by Golden Harvest.

"He would very much like to go to Singapore, but he has a tight schedule and at present he has no plans to visit your country," said Mr. Chow when I told him of a Singapore report that Bruce Lee might be coming here later this year.

But they plan to visit Europe in June, and Golden Harvest's representative in Singapore, Mr. S. Y. Kong, is hopeful that he could persuade them to make a stop-over here.

Bruce Lee was highly amused when I asked him about his Singapore stopover last year.

"What stopover?" he said with astonishment, "I don't think I have been within 500 miles of Singapore!

"I hear it is a clean and beautiful city though, and I certainly intend going there one of these days."

But "these days" are not likely to be within this year according to Bruce Lee, so Singaporeans will have to be content with seeing him in Fist of Fury, which is scheduled for general screening in June.

Bruce Lee gives flying kick in The Big Boss.

'A film no Chinese should miss'

The last pugilistic punch freezes on the screen; the clanging of heavy swords echo down the auditorium. And then, suddenly, these words appear at the end of the trailer: "This is a film no Chinese should mis."

The cigar-chomping movie-makers in Hong Kong certainly know their audience.

For more than five years now they have been giving them exactly what they want, in thrilling wide-screen and brilliant colour.

The stars — Bruce Lee, Wang Yu and David Chiang — and the extras have been occupied, to the exclusion of almost everything else, in murderous, vengeful but mostly heroic swordplay and pugilistics.

Critics predicted that people would soon get tired of this stereotype genre of films with indifferent story-lines and the most basic of acting techniques.

But the smashed box-office records have proved them wrong: Bruce Lee's The Big Boss has become the highest-grossing film of all time in Singapore, raking in over $700,000 earlier this year.

His latest film, Fist of Fury, which ends its season in Hong Kong today, has grosed over HK$4 million, breaking even previous top grosser Big Boss' record of HK$3.2 million.

What has made them into such volatile commodities?

Star value? This is certainly one factor. The big names are the draw: Bruce Lee is right on top at the moment, after vanquishing his screen enemies with his fast, three-sided and roll kicks.

In this way, Hong Kong resembles the old Hollywood, with a very definite star cult. Wang Yu is still good box-office material, but perhaps his mistake has been to join the smaller companies which cannot even afford proper sets.

Pint sized (compared to the other two) David Chiang came and went as fast as his flying kick; but he made his mark both literally with his potent punches and cinematically on the mind of film-goers.

Another reason could be the "action" (as differentiated from "acting" which was far better in older and gentler Mandarin films).

This is where the producer uncovers his boxful of gimmicks.

All sorts of weapons—their historical authenticity often disclaimed by Chinese history students — then make their appearances, delighting with school-boyish enthusiasm the adolescent audiences.

In the coming Fist of Fury (schedule for May or June here) Bruce Lee will whip out a chain attached at each end with a deadly truncheon-like object (probably the result of his experience with American muggers) to do battle with his ever-present foes.

There have been other more bizarre assortments of weaponry, often linked with the supernatural.

Not satisfied with tampering with their weapons, producers often add novelty to the actor's body as well.

Thus early in the battle for more box-office crowds. Wang Yu sacrificed his right arm for a more strikingly pathetic impact.

But then, could star-attraction, swashbuckling "action" and gimmickry in themselves sustain the ever growing popularity of these films?

On re-analysis, critics have perhaps come up with the reason — and this is not a really flattering one as far as the film-makers are concerned.

In short, they suggest that the Hong Kong movie makers are peddling their wares as something which "no Chinese should miss."

This became suddenly vividly apparent to me when I saw the slogan at the end of the trailer the other day.

The recent ban by London on The Big Boss is perhaps based on the fear that it would start a virus-like cult among the Chinese in Britain.

By Edgar Koh

THE VOICE OF THE PRESS

What other newspapers are saying:

Sin Chew Jit Poh

BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM AND U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS: U.S. bombers hit four Soviet vessels during their raids on Haiphong. The Soviet Union has lodged a protest against this and according to today's reports, the U.S. has already apologised to the Soviet Union. However, in its apology, the US says any countries which supply arms to North Vietnam must be held responsible for the recent offensive launched by North Vietnam south of the Demilitarized Zone. In other words, the Soviet Union must also be held responsible because it has been supplying arms to North Vietnam. This is an interlude which involves US-Soviet relations.

During these few months, the US State Secretary, Mr. William Rogers, and Defence Secretary, Mr. Melvin Laird, have now and then criticised the Soviet Union for supplying large quantities of arms to North Vietnam and even said that President Nixon might urge the Soviet Union at the US-Soviet summit meeting to reduce its military aids to North Vietnam so as to ease the situation in Vietnam. Such statements are obviously aimed at giving the people an illision that if the US troops are withdrawn and Soviet aid to North Vietnam is reduced, the situation in South Vietnam will really case.

In his speech to the Canadian Parliament, President Nixon hinted that the Soviet Union encouraged aggression by supplying arms and ammunitions to North Vietnam. He must have forgotten about the "act of aggression" of the US troops.

A point worthy of attention is that almost all report, received from Washington during these few days linked the resumption of US bombing of North Vietnam with Soviet military aid to North Vietnam, as if the two are related mutually as cause and effect.

If the US can go all out to support the Saigon regime, what is wrong for North Vietnam to receive foreign aid?

Will the US-Soviet relations sour up, or will Nixon's proposed visit to the Soviet Union be postponed or cancelled on account of this? Such questions are not worth speculating. But the most important point is that a fierce struggle for supremacy between the US and the Soviet Union, the world's two super powers, is going on in many areas: from the European continent to the Mediterranean, from the Indian Subcontinent the Indian Ocean and from Indo-China to Japan.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry seems to think that the US bombing on North Vietnam is aimed at showing her military might to increase her bargaining power at the forthcoming US-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow.

As a matter of fact, the US bombing of North Vietnam has not only failed to show its military might or increase Nixon's bargaining power at the forthcoming summit meeting, but also evoked strong condemnation from people all over the world against the US barbarity and cruelty. As a result, Nixon has become even more isolated.

With mutual rivalry and deception, even if the US-Soviet summit meeting is held as scheduled, what will it achieve?

(19-4-72)

Nanyang Siang Pau

THE DEATH OF JAPANESE AUTHOR, YASUNARI KAWABATA: The death of Yasunari Kawabata, the Japanese Nobel Prize winner for literature in 1968, who was reported to have committed suicide in his apartment at Zushi two days ago, is a very distressing news. This is yet another tragedy that has occurred to Nobel Prize winners for literature following the death of Pasternak, the Soviet author of "Dr. Zhivago" fame. This is not a personal tragedy but the woe of the times.

Following the Indian poet, Tagore's winning the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913, Kawabata was again an Asian author that won the prize. This all the more has aroused people's attention and interest. Kawabata, a traditionalist author of the Showa era, all along propounded the stand that literature should be free from the influence of politics or international turbulence, and all his works and publications were not involved with politics in any way.

It was because of his superb skill and style, fully expressing the quintessence of the Japanese thinking, that he won the Nobel Prize. Prompted by his conscience as a man of literature, he appealed for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam and condemned the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet armed forces.

At his old age, Yasunari Kawabata enjoyed high prestige and respect among the people and lived well materially. He took his life probably because he was afflicted by the turbulence of the present world where he could find no solace for his unaffected feelings. We mourn the death of such an outstanding talent, and believe that all those with a love for literature will share our feeling.

(19-4-72)

Utusan Melayu

A COMMON MARKET FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES: Mr. Ingles, the Philippines' Presidential envoy, after attending the current Asean Foreign Ministers' meeting, made an appeal for the setting up of a common market among the five Asean countries to protect the economic interests of the member countries. He held that this was of vital importance in forging unity among countries in the region and that, therefore, a common market should be made the ultimate objective of Asean.

It is recalled that in our editorial last Thursday, we pointed to the need of setting up of a tariff union to achieve the objective of regional economic co-operation among the five Asean countries, and suggested that the countries concerned proceed first with discussions on investment projects so as to clearly define the areas of co-operation to avoid unnecessary disputes in the future over conflicting national interests as in the case of member countries of the European Economic Community. Given mutual trust and co-operation, the five Asean countries should be able to give full play to the effects of a tariff union in the pursuit of common interests.

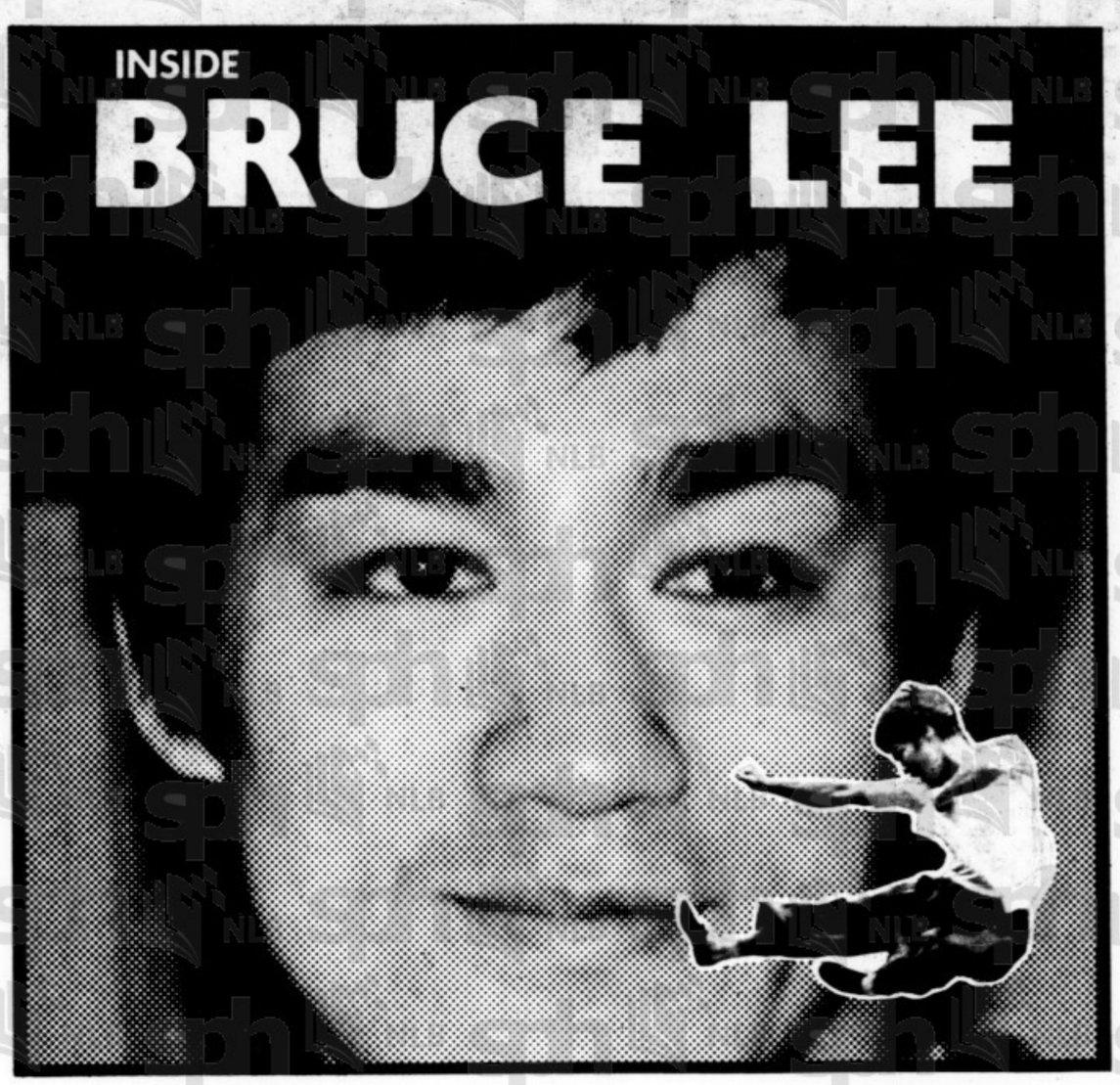
Therefore, apart from giving unreserved support to Mr. Ingles' proposal for the setting up of a common market, we would like to call on the five Asean countries to initiate discussions on the matter as early as possible in view of the technical complexities involved, on which agreement can be reached only after discussions and deliberations over a long period of time as in the case of the Rome agreement for the EEC which took several years to conclude.

(18-4-72)

A NEW NATION EXCLUSIVE

INSIDE

BRUCE LEE



Watching the big boss at work

Pang Cheng Lian spent a week in Hong Kong talking to Bruce Lee and those who work with him. In the first of a four-part series, she describes how she spent a working day with Bruce Lee. He has turned director for his third film, Enter the Dragon.

August is an impossible month to work in Hong Kong. The heat is unbearable — daily temperature is 33 degrees C (91 degrees F) — and the humidity, which is well over 70 per cent, makes life uncomfortable and unpleasant.

This morning is typical of Hong Kong's oppressive and sultry summer. By the time I arrive at the Golden Harvest film studios, my handkerchief is wet with my perspiration. (It is definitely not in anticipation of talking to the latest superstar in the Chinese film industry — Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong).

Big stars, I have been warned, make it a point never to be punctual. So although Bruce Lee, who has turned director for his third Golden Harvest film, Enter the Dragon, is scheduled to start work at 9 a.m., I prepare to sweat it out for another half-an-hour before meeting the Big Boss.

The time by my watch is only 9.30. But this box-office breaker is apparently atypical of his predecessors. For lying stationary in the studio's parking lot is his jazzy-looking scarlet convertible Mercedes Benz 350 SL — worth a cool $41,000.

The owner, I am told, has been here since 9 a.m. and is presently watching director King Hu of The Dragon Inn fame, shooting another historical drama.

Naturally I head for the set immediately. But I find it in semi-darkness and it is difficult to make out which of the numerous men is the million-dollar actor I met last March.

He spots me, however, and I find my hand being grasped in a firm handshake. Once again I am struck by his compact frame. It seems difficult to imagine this slim unshaven man with tousled hair standing in front of me is the same good-looking guy packing them in with his three-legged kicks and fists of fury. (He explains later that he prefers to keep a moustache when he is not filming. The current moustache is only three days old).

But even millionaire actors have to work, and Bruce Lee tears himself away to begin the dubbing of special sound effects for his film, Enter the Dragon. The film was shot in Rome and they have just completed putting in the dialogue. For the next four to five days he will be supervising the improvisation of the special sound effects — footsteps, cat's calling and things like that.

We take a short walk to the recording studio, and it soon becomes obvious that this idol of thousands in Asia is an extremely friendly person. Each of the studio hands we pass by is greeted with a "good morning" or "how are you today?"

"How is the work?", he calls out to a man walking hurriedly past. The man looks up and Bruce Lee realises that he has mistaken the man for somebody else.

"Sorry, case of mistaken identity, but good morning all the same," he shouts out in Cantonese.

The five workers who are responsible for providing the special sound effects for the new film are already assembled when we arrive at the studio at 9.50. He introduces me to his assistant, Mr. Chik Yiu Cheung, but leaves the rest to introduce themselves.

"Excuse me a moment," says Bruce Lee, "I have to look for my towel. I can't adapt myself to this terrible heat. Give me the cold anytime."

He leaves the group, taking off his beige shirt at the same time. But he is back within five minutes wanting to know who will be providing the rumbling sound of an empty stomach required in one of the first scenes of the film.

"Who's hungry?," he asks. "We'll bring the microphone to his stomach to record it."

But everyone apparently has had a hearty breakfast and nobody is hungry. So he decides to put off the scene for the moment and start with something else.

Turning to me Bruce Lee says: "This is the first time that I have directed a film, and on the whole I must say I am satisfied with the result.

"Nevertheless there is, of course, still room for improvement.

"I read lots of books on cinematography and I know what I want. I tell the camera man what I have in mind, but I usually leave the technical work to him. I have to admit that I am no specialist.

"What do I think is good directing? Well, I think a good director should give the audience the feeling that there is no director behind the action at all. It must be real and natural."

He breaks off his discourse at this point as a red light comes on just then. Everyone in the room holds his breath as the sounds for a few scenes are recorded.

But the scenes have to be redone because a radio is playing in the background. One of the workers explains that the buildings next to the studio are occupied by squatters and they cannot do anything about the interference.

"Okay," Bruce Lee says in Cantonese, "get me some men and we will clear the whole lot out in no time."

Everybody laughs in jest. The radio owner must have also heard his suggestion and taken it seriously for the set grows silent, and the dubbing carries on.

This actor, whose last film, Fist of Fury, has grossed more than $800,000 in Singapore alone, $2.2 million in the British colony and $760,000 in Taiwan, decides to tell me about the film which he has just completed directing.

"I really don't want to appear to be bragging," he says. "But I am confident that this film will do even better than the other two.

"I wrote the script and I play a Kowloon boy who is asked to go to Rome to help out a relative in trouble. The relative runs a Chinese restaurant, but is being pressured into selling the restaurant by some hoodlums.

"The climax takes place in the famous Colosseum in Rome and I have to fight an American who has won the karate championship in the States seven times!

"The central character, whose name means Dragon in English — hence the title, Enter the Dragon — is a little like the Big Boss and Chen Chan in Fist of Fury, but he is also slightly different.

"He is a simple man like the Big Boss, but he likes to act big, you see. He doesn't really understand a metropolis like Rome, but he pretends that he does. He doesn't want to appear the country pumpkin, so rather than admit his ignorance of the language to the Italian waitress, he merely points to the menu to order. The result is he ends up drinking five bowls of soup."

At this point, Bruce Lee's sharp black eyes catch sight of one of the workers massaging the neck of a woman colleague.

"Let me do it," he volunteers.

Again without waiting for an answer — not that I think the girl would have refused—the director starts kneading her back and shoulders with the air of a professional. He obviously knows what he is doing too, for a few minutes later the woman claims that she is feeling much better.

So we return to our interrupted conversation. How does he write his script, I wanted to know. Does he write in English or Chinese? He speaks excellent English when talking to me and Cantonese to his colleagues in the movie industry.

"I write in Chinese and get somebody else to polish it up a bit," he says with remarkable frankness. "I tried writing it in English at first and to have somebody translate it into Chinese, but it didn't work. The translation inevitably loses some of the original ideas.

"So I decided to write in Chinese with the help of a dictionary. It is quite funny really. I bought this English-Chinese dictionary originally to help me find the suitable English words when I first went to the States when I was 18.

"Now I find that I have to use it to find the Chinese words which I have in mind."

Though the actor was born in San Francisco he spent most of his early life in Hong Kong and only returned to the US when he was 18 to enter college.

It is nearing noon now and the sound effects people have gone out of the studio to tape some moving traffic for a street scene. The place is quiet and Bruce Lee, who has not kept still longer than 10 minutes since I've seen him this morning, decides to read Alex Josey's column in New Nation about Bruce Lee's last film shown in Singapore, Fist of Fury.

As he continues to the end of the column it is apparent that he does not agree with it.

"He is viewing a Chinese film with a Westerner's mind," he says. "Have you seen the TV series All in the Family?

"It is a success in the West, but it would be a complete disaster if you were to look at it purely from the Chinese viewpoint. I think we should try to see films according to the cultural background of the people the films are aimed at.

"I don't think Mr. Josey should call it a comedy. To the Chinese the humiliation felt in those years was real. There is nothing to laugh about."

He agrees, however, that there are certain sections in his films which he does not expect his audience to take too seriously.

I decide to change the subject, so we begin discussing his daily jogging. I ask to be allowed to take photographs of him jogging one of these mornings, but he refuses.

"Jogging is not only a form of exercise to me," he says. "It is also a form of relaxation. It is my own hour every morning, when I can be alone with my own thoughts."

Now he decides to change the subject and starts whistling his favourite tune, "I'd like to teach the world to sing."

He breaks off suddenly and announces: "But if there is one thing I'm certain of, it is the fact that I can't sing.

"I tell people I have a rich voice — because it is well off."

By now the food has arrived in little boxes and he hands one to me. As we eat we talk about the two-legged weapon which he uses in the Fist of Fury and which has become popular in Singapore as well as in Taiwan.

"Man, I had to use something you know. After all that guy was coming for me with a sword!" he says. "And no man, certainly not me, can use bare fists against swords, so we had to think of a weapon for me.

"I used it once in the Green Hornet series. The weapon probably originated in China, but later travelled to Okinawa and then Japan."

Asked if he contemplates acting in a sword-fighting drama one of these days, he replies in the affirmative. Provided he has the right script, he would like to act in a period film.

He finishes lunch and announces that he must ring home to find out how his wife is doing. They have just bought a new house and are still in the process of settling in. He finds that he has forgotten the telephone number, however, and has to look up his notebook for it.

By 1.30 p.m. everyone is back at work and I decide not to ask any questions but to play the role of an observer.

At the first break the woman worker suggests that one of her colleagues buy her a drink. The alert Bruce Lee hears it and immediately offers to buy drinks for all. Some cakes are also ordered, but when I refused one, saying that it was too soon after lunch he suggests that I should take it as dessert Logical, I guess, since it is still too early for tea.

At the next break, one of his friends decides to test his reflexes. He is asked to try and catch a dollar note as it slips from a hand. He has to place his hand just under that of the man holding the note, but he cannot move his hand to catch it as it falls.

The first few times the note moves too fast for his hand, but he soon gets the hang of it.

He decides to give some pointers on fighting to a few of his friends who have come in to watch him.

"You must be fierce, but have patience at the same time," he counsels. "Most important of all, you must have complete determination. The worst opponent you can come across is one whose aim has become an obsession.

"For instance if a man has decided that he is going to bite off your nose no matter what happens to him in the process, the chances are he will succeed in doing it. He may be severely beaten up too, but that will not stop him from carrying out his original objective. That is the real fighter.

"Women fighters? They are all right, but they are no match for the men who are physiologically stronger, except for a few vulnerable points. My advice is that if they have to fight, hit the man at his vital spots and then run.

"Women are more likely to achieve their objectives through feminine wiles and persuasion."

At this juncture the red light comes on again and the sound effects workers concentrate to provide the sounds created by Bruce Lee while sparring on his own. Remember those loud crackling sounds you heard in his first two films, every time he exhibited his flying kicks?

Bruce Lee gets interested in the way they provide the sound effects — wild horses will not make me reveal how they are achieved — and in a few minutes he is joining the sound effects gang.

By this time the man who operates the movie projector breaks off for a snack so work is again stopped. Somebody in the room starts talking about the "accessibility" of a particular actress. But Bruce Lee, who appears angry for the first time, immediately defends her.

"People in Hong Kong gossip too much," he snaps. "How do they know which actress is available and which isn't? People have nothing to do so they start weaving such stories about the different actresses, without realising the harm that they are causing."

Before he can continue with his strong views, the man handling the projector has finished his snack and the red light signalling for silence is on again.

At the next break, one of his friends, who acted with him in The Big Boss, asks his advice on a visting card he has just had printed. The young man is starting a karate class, but the printer has put under his name "Director and Chief Instructor of Self-Defiance Agency."

"Self-defiance?," Bruce Lee laughs loudly.

He goes on to explain in Cantonese to his friend the difference between self-defence and self-defiance. For the next half an hour he is involved in correcting the visiting card.

At 4.15 p.m. a photographer from one of the Hong Kong papers walks into the room. He starts taking shots of Bruce Lee and wants to know whether it is true that he will be acting for Shaw Brothers.

"If they have a good script, I will consider it," Bruce Lee replies. "I want to be neutral and act for whichever company can provide me with the good scripts. I don't want to be involved in any conflicts or competition here."

Within a short space of time another five photographers attached to Hong Kong newspapers appear on the scene, asking the same question—has Bruce Lee agreed to act for Shaws?

By this time he is just a little irritated and he replies: "Tell them I've signed for 20 films with Shaws."

Then he leaves the group and goes to another corner of the room, seemingly to do some bending exercises. The photographers leave soon after.

The group breaks up, but actor-turned-director Brue Lee promises to see me for a longer interview another day.

'Women fighters? They are all right, but they are no match for the men who are physiologically stronger...My advice is that if they have to fight, hit the man at his vital spots and run'

Bruce Lee directs the sound effects.

Pang Cheng Lian with Bruce Lee.

Bruce Lee reads the New Nation.

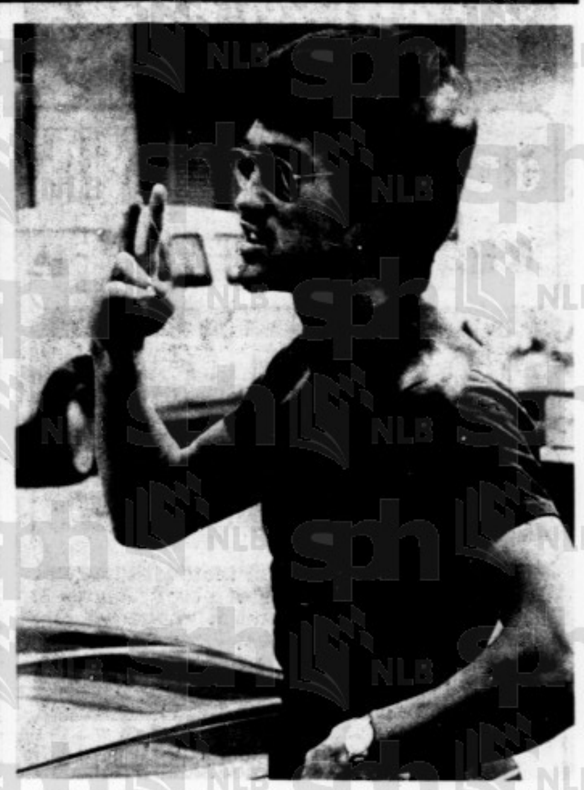
Tomorrow: Bruce Lee speaks his mind

A NEW NATION EXCLUSIVE BY PANG CHENG LIAN

'I have always insisted on a good script . . .'

'I do not believe in playing up violence.'

'What is good for the Westerners may not necessarily be good for the Easterners.'



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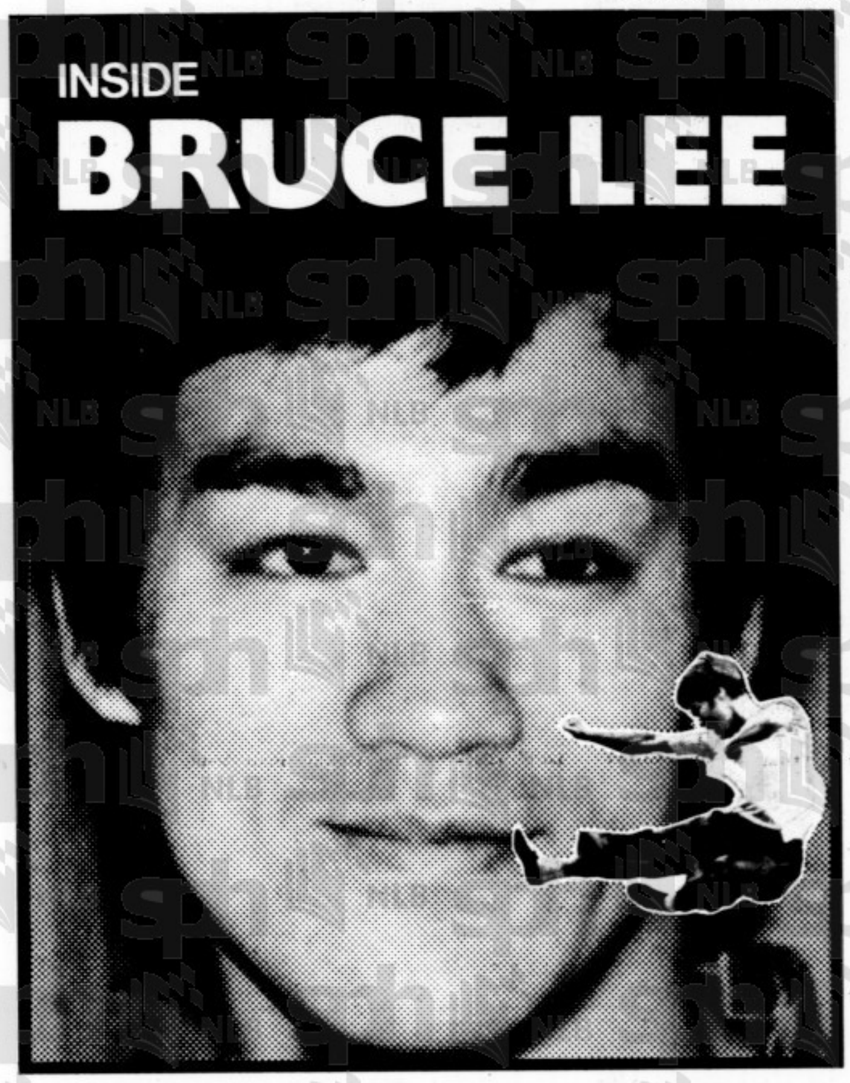


HE HAS SPECIAL PLANS TO WIN WORLDWIDE FAME...

Having taken Asia by storm Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong plans to win world fame. He will be the first Chinese actor to play the leading role in an American film.

Bruce Lee, the San Francisco - born Chinese actor who has thrilled millions in Asia, through his pugilistic skills, will be starring in a joint production with Warner Brothers of the US.

The Chinese movie phenomenon who shot to fame in his first Chinese film, revealed that agreement has already been reached between him and Warner Brothers regarding a joint production.

The American partner is now preparing a script for the film in which Bruce Lee will play the leading role.

"The script is the most important thing," he said. "That is why I have always insisted on having a good script before accepting the role. Just recently I turned down a Golden Harvest film because I wasn't happy with the script.

"At present I am working on the script for my next film. I haven't really decided on the title yet, but what I want to show is the necessity to adapt oneself to changing circumstances. The inability to adapt brings destruction.

SYMBOLISM

"I already have the first scene in my mind. As the film opens, the audience sees a wide expanse of snow. Then the camera closes in on a clump of trees while the sounds of a strong gale fill the screen.

"There is a huge tree in the centre of the screen and it is all covered with thick snow. Suddenly there is a loud snap and a huge branch of the tree falls to the ground. It cannot yield to the force of the snow so it breaks.

"Then the camera moves to a willow tree which is bending with the wind. Because it adapts itself to the environment, the willow survives.

"It is this sort of symbolism which I think Chinese action films should seek to have. In this way I hope to broaden the scope of action films.

"The box-office success of my first two films for Golden Harvest has given me a certain amount of manoeuvrability. I can do what I like usually in the film. But it has also set certain limitations. People expect me to fight, you know. They expect action from me.

"So in a way I am imprisoned by my own success too."

Of late, I pointed out, there have been complaints that there is too much violence in Chinese films. What does he think of such complaints?

"I do not believe in playing up violence," said the man who owes his popularity to his fine display of martial arts on celluloid. "I think it is unhealthy to play up violence.

"If a man has his throat slit during a fight for example, the audience should not be given a frontal view of his blood-soaked throat.

"But it should be remembered that violence and aggression is part of everyday life now. You see it over the TV and in Vietnam. You can't just pretend that it does not exist.

"On the other hand, I don't think one should use violence and aggression as themes of movies. The glorification of violence is bad.

"That is why I insisted that Chan Chen, the role I played in Fist of Fury, should die in the film. He had killed many people and he had to pay for it."

Despite the tremendous box-office success of his first two Chinese films — the second, Fist of Fury, has broken records in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore — Bruce Lee is surprisingly critical of both.

Both, he thought, have plenty of room for improvement if they are to win international appeal.

But, I argued, I understand that Golden Harvest is now dubbing The Big Boss in English for general screening in London and Australia.

"Yes," he agreed, "Raymond the producer, is keen on the idea, but I'm personally not too happy. And it is not only the production, but the theme that I am talking about.

"You see, there is a cultural gap between the west and the east. What is good for the Westerners may not necessarily be good for the Easterners and vice versa.

"Learning English for example, is not too difficult. But to understand the nuances of tones and the meaning of colloquial expressions, that is difficult.

"At present, most of our Chinese films are geared towards the South-East Asian audience. People here have different tastes from those of people who live in the west.

"We have to try and produce films with universal appeal if we are to gain international recognition. This is what I intend to achieve in my future films.

"Enter. the Dragon, the film I've just finished directing and acting, is only the beginning."

But the cultural gap is not the only barrier against Chinese films seeking international appreciation. Bruce Lee indicated that the inferior quality of production is another factor.

Those involved in the movie industry, he thought, were not professional enough.

"Take today for example," he said. "Everyone knows that we start work at nine. It is 9.30 now. The director, myself, is here, but my workers have not arrived. This sort of thing is unheard of in the States.

"Part of the reason these people are late is that it is the fashion for other directors and big stars to be late.

"The other problem about the Hong Kong film industry is that there are too many stars and too few actors. Box-office popularity often provides the stars with considerable power, unfortunately many tend to misuse it."

Success, according to the new wonder-man of the Hong Kong film industry, is not without its pitfalls.

He explained: "There are too many temptations. Recently, for instance, I was offered HK$250,000 ($125,000) to appear for a few moments in a commercial.

"There are also many movie offers but I feel that it would not be fair to anyone if I start shooting a dozen films a year. I can't possibly give any of the films the full attention and concentration that it requires.

"I want to limit the number of films which I appear in each year. These tempting offers are making life more and more complicated."

If rumours are true, the offers are indeed tempting. People in the film industry are speculating that some producers are prepared to pay him a million Hong Kong dollars for a film.

Bruce Lee was quite candid about the importance of money.

"Sure, money is important in providing for my family and giving us what we want. But it isn't everything," he said.

Bruce Lee, it appears, is not a great money-spender. He does not smoke, drink or gamble.

"I don't think putting smoke into your body is quite the thing to do," he said.

"As for alcohol, I think it tastes awful. Don't know why anyone should want to drink the stuff.

"As for gambling, I don't believe in getting something for nothing.

"But I do buy lots of clothes although I seldom have the chance to show them off since I go out very infrequently."

The actor, script writer and director has little interest in social engagements or publicity appearances. He prefers to spend his free time with his wife and two children, and only goes out occasionally with some close friends.

Since we were on the subject of his likes and dislikes, I decided to ask him to name a few more examples.

"Oh, I like light rain," he said. "It gives one such a sense of calmness and tranquillity. I enjoy walking in the rain.

"But most of all, I like books. I read all types of books — fiction and non-fiction.

"What I detest most is dishonest people who talk more than they are capable of doing. I also find people who use false humility as a means to cover their obnoxious inadequacy."

Being an extremely frank man by nature, and perhaps influenced by his long stay in the US, Bruce Lee admits that he opens to people enthusiastically. But he finds that people in Hong Kong tend to be more guarded.

"Then there is the other group of people who try to utilise me for their own ends," he said. "There was this producer who insisted that I go along to see the rushes of his new film. To oblige him I did.

"The next thing I knew advertisements for the film proclaimed in bold print that Bruce Lee had spoken highly of the production!"

To my surprise, Bruce Lee revealed that though his rise to fame in the film industry has been quite recent and sudden, his association with movies has been very long.

His first appearance on the screen took place when he was only three months old; in a Chinese film produced in San Francisco. He starred in several Cantonese films in his teens when he was living in Hong Kong.

The last film he appeared in before leaving for the US in his late teens was probably his best known, entitled The Orphan. For the part he received HK$1,000 ($500) — which is estimated to be worth about HK $3,500 ($1,750) today — not a bad salary in those days.

THUG

In the US Bruce Lee's martial skill won him the role of Kato in The Green Hornet TV series. As Kato, he played the faithful friend and companion of Britt Reid, the crusading, crime-busting newspaperman who adopts the guise of The Green Hornet in his fight against crime and corruption.

In the late sixties he played a small part as a thug in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayor's production of Marlowe, a detective thriller.

Then early this year he played the title role in The Big Boss, a Golden Harvest production, and Bruce Lee has not looked back since.

How does he explain his fantastic rise to fame?

"My 12 years of preparation in the States," was his prompt reply. "Without them I would be little different from the others here. I was in the U.S. in my formative years and I think I learned a lot there.

"Another important factor is the great interest I have in my work. I am willing to give 101 per cent attention to my films.

"Partly, I suppose, the audience senses the animalism in me."

The actor whose two films are currently the biggest money-makers among Chinese movies claims that breaking box-office records does not mean very much to him.

"The important thing is that I am personally satisfied with my work," he said. "If it is a piece of junk I will only regret it."

But what of his future plans?

"Well, I want to direct more films," he said quickly. "Directing, I feel, is more creative. You really get a chance to produce the result you want.

"An actor is restricted. He can only do as the director instructs. In my case I can influence the production to a certain extent because of my present status.

"But it is not a satisfactory state of affair because I know I am interfering and I hate to interfere with other people's work."

The self-confident actor who has just finished directing his first film sets no limit to his career. "One must always strive to be better," he said. "The sky's the limit."

He does feel, however, that a man's fighting days are over when he reaches 45.

"The man himself will not realise it and will probably deny it," he said. "But physiologically he is already on the decline and I think the fighter over 45 should sit back and watch the emergence of the new ones."

And Bruce Lee, 31, should know what he is talking about for he has been studying martial arts since the age of 13. He has even founded his own school called Jeet Kune Do.

A strict definition of Jeet Kune Do, however, is difficult to come by since the founder Bruce Lee stresses change and adaptability.

He believes that the true martial arts teacher should help the student to "discover" for himself the best style of fighting most suited to him.

The former Jeet Kune Do instructor — he no longer has any time to do any teaching for obvious reasons—is against mass education of students along strict traditional methods. Instead, he is of the opinion that they have to explore and discover for themselves what comes more naturally.

It was his refusal to follow the trend of popularising martial arts in the US which made him close his three schools in Seattle, Oaklands and Los Angeles a few years ago.

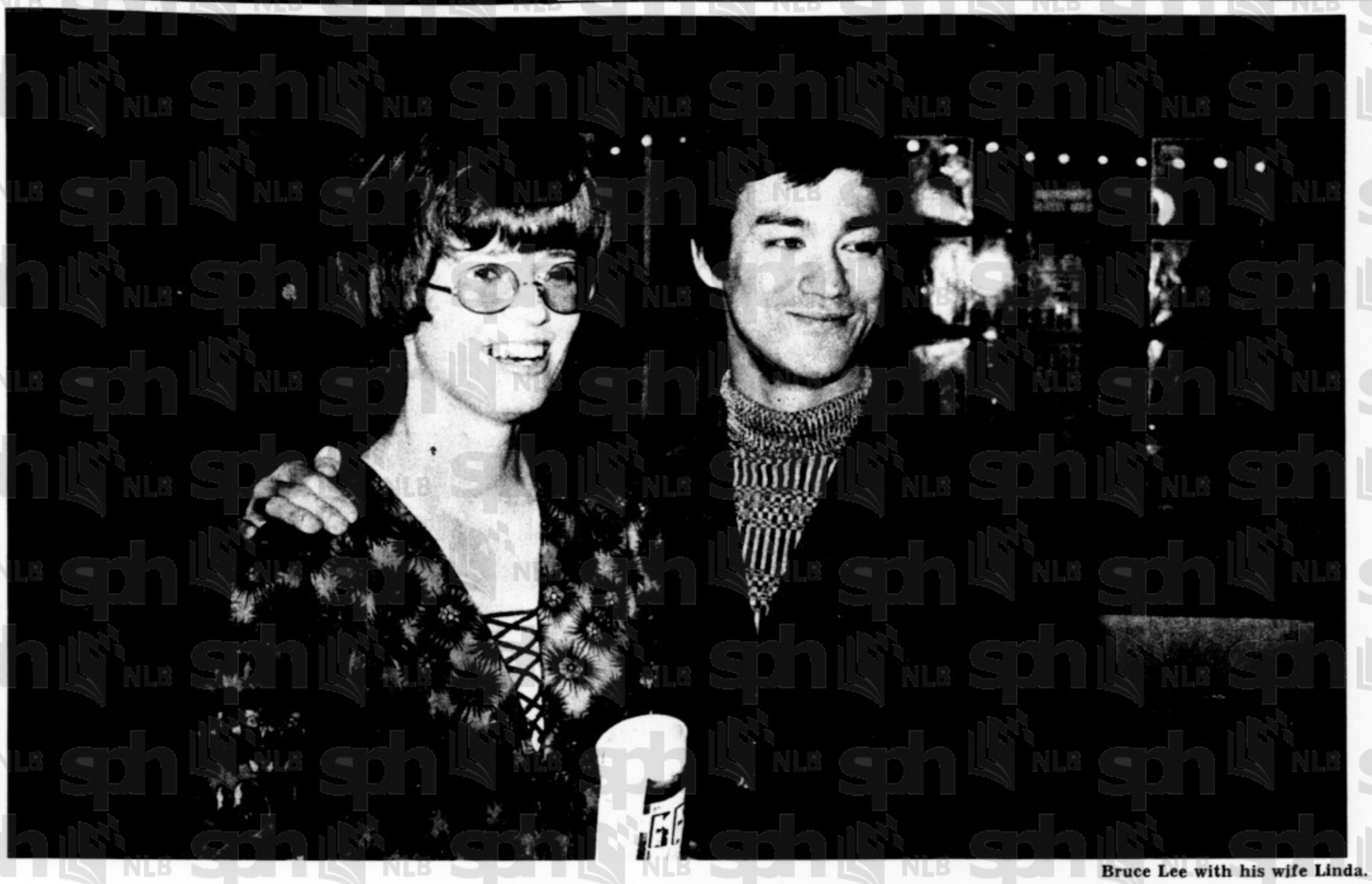
"Not every man can take lessons to be a good fighter," he said. "He must be a person who is able to relate his training to the circumstances he encounters.

"Self-actualisation is the important thing. And my personal message to the wonderful Singaporeans is that I hope they will go towards self-actualisation rather than self-image actualisation. I hope that they will search within themselves for honest self-expression."

SECOND OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

TOMORROW: BRUCE LEE'S FAMILY

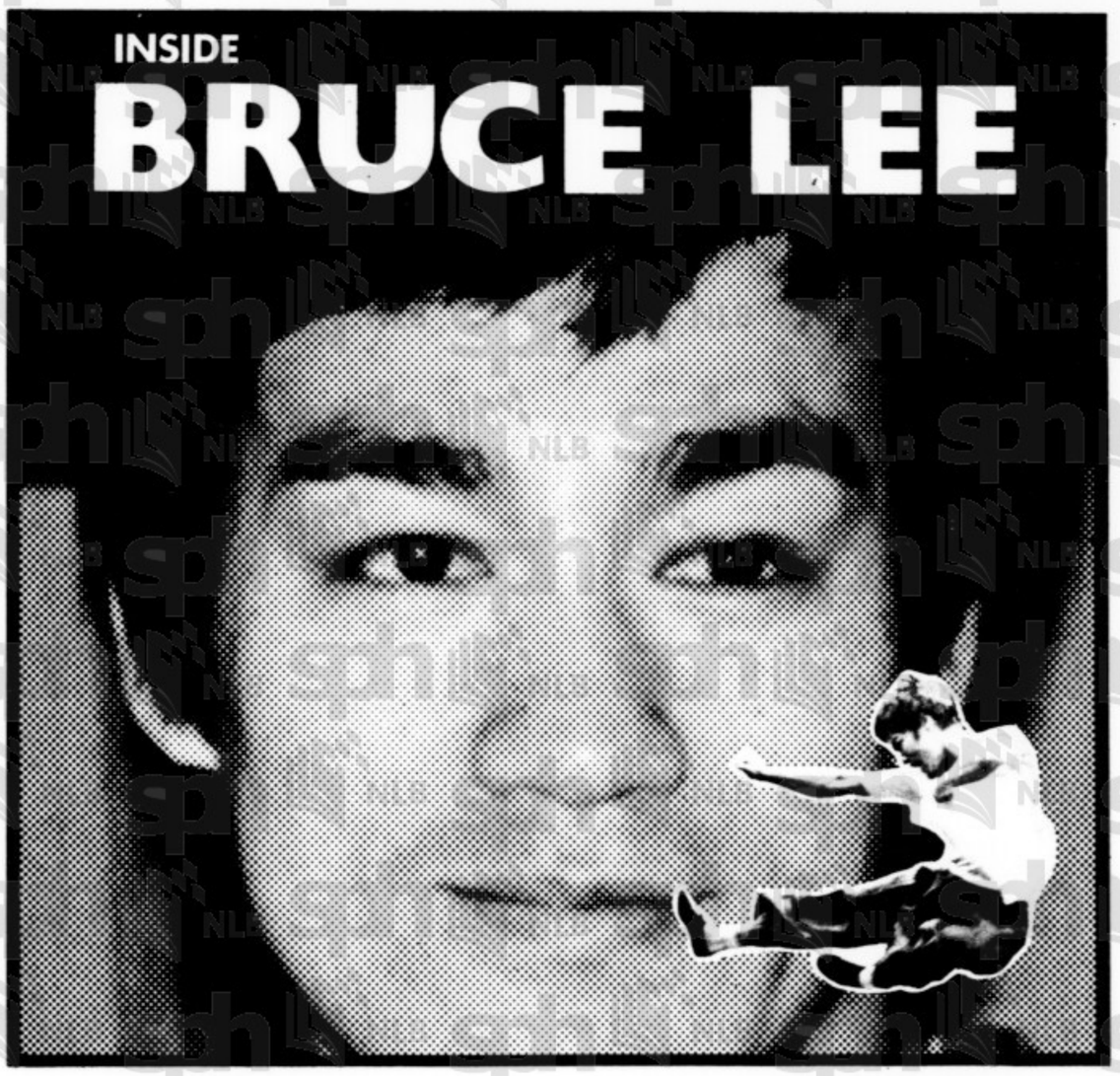
A NEW NATION EXCLUSIVE BY PANG CHENG LIAN



Bruce Lee with his wife Linda.

INSIDE

BRUCE LEE



Success has not gone to his head, says his wife

Linda Lee, the blue-eyed blonde from Seattle, is probably the only one in the world who is not surprised by Bruce Lee's phenomenal success.

"I knew all along that he had it in him. The only difference is that others are aware of it now," she said over lunch last week.

Which is really not a surprising statement, I guess, since American-born Linda ("I have some Swedish blood on my mother's side") is the wife of Bruce Lee, the man who rates as one of the most popular Chinese actors in Asia today.

They have been married for nine years and only the blind will fail to see that they are greatly attached to one another.

Soft-spoken Linda was at first reluctant to be interviewed — "We prefer to separate his family from his career," I was told—but as we proceed from onion soup to pepper steak, it became pretty clear that she was very enthusiastic about discussing her husband, Bruce Lee.

"He is not the sort of person who pays a great deal of attention to ceremony and form," she said. "For example, he thinks that opening doors or bringing flowers are unimportant things. These are merely actions; it is the thought that you have for a person which is important.

"But he is very considerate. He always remembers birthdays and anniversaries.

"He has got the knack of getting along with people. He makes friends easily, but he can read people better than I can. I think I am more gullible and tend to take people at their face value, but Bruce can make very accurate assessments of people's characters at first meetings."

Nothing like getting the story from the beginning, I thought, so I asked Linda how she met and married Bruce Lee, the Chinese from Hong Kong.

"We met in Seattle," she said. "We were both studying at the University of Washington, although he was a year my senior. He was doing philosophy while I wanted to do medicine.

"We actually met through his martial arts class. You see, he had started a school in Seattle as a part-time job, and I had a Chinese girl-friend who had enrolled in his school.

"We all thought it was quite funny about her taking 'kung-fu' at first, but I decided to go along and have a look one day. That was how I met Bruce.

"I got interested in the class and decided to enrol. No I don't think that I enrolled primarily because I wanted to get to know him," she added in reply to my query.

She went on: "A Hong Kong magazine reporter once asked me whether I had fallen in love with Bruce first or whether he had made the first move. I said I did.

"Women normally have more love to give. Don't you agree?

"Anyway we started dating but we didn't really think seriously of marriage until he decided to move to Oakland. He asked if I wanted to go with him.

"I thought for exactly 30 seconds and I accepted the proposal."

How did your parents take it, I asked. After all, though Bruce Lee was born in the States, he is a Chinese. Did your parents object?

"My father's dead, and my mother wasn't too happy about my marrying so young," she replied with disarming frankness. "I was the younger of two daughters and my sister had already got married.

"I was doing well in my studies and my mother was hoping that I would finish medical school at least before settling down.

"Mother wasn't against Bruce because he was a Chinese although she did worry that I might suffer racial discrimination from others. But her fears proved to be unfounded. Everyone was extremely nice to us and I didn't think we experienced it at all.

"Partly, I guess, because Bruce is a very easy person to get along with."

I asked if success has made Bruce Lee difficult to live with, but Linda at once squashed the suggestion.

"Oh no, he hasn't changed at all," she said. "Of course we get recognised in the streets nowadays and he receives scores of fan mail (but he was already receiving them when he was doing his Green Hornet series).

"However, once we are together in our home everything is the same. His overnight success hasn't changed him one bit.

"He still prefers to spend most of his free time with his family. We usually stay at home. Now that we have bought this new house we will have even less need to get out."

Located in Kowloon, Bruce Lee's new house is palatial with eight bedrooms covering more than 12,000 sq. ft. and estimated to be worth $750,000.

But Bruce Lee's busy filming schedule also means that he has to spend long working hours out of the house.

"Sometimes I don't see him for days on end," she says wistfully. "But then there will be other days when he is completely free and the family is together. Personally I wouldn't want it any other way. I don't think I would like him to have a steady nine to five job."

She values his company so much that she has put off a plan to attend regular Chinese classes at the Asia College.

What about plans to join the movie industry herself?

"I don't think it will be a good idea at the present moment," she said. "I think Bruce prefers me as I am now.

"Right now I want to learn Cantonese quickly. He discusses his ideas with his friends in Cantonese and I want to be able to understand and join in the discussions."

Linda believes that a successful marriage is one in which the two partners should have similar as well as different interests. In her case the similar interests are Bruce Lee's career and a love for reading.

She added that at the moment she is more interested in reading books on China and Chinese people and the Chinese way of life. She has just finished reading an autobiography of Han Suyin.

With great candour she admitted that she does not sew, "except for pyjamas and housecoats which do not need to fit well."

Most of her clothes are bought off the peg "because Hong Kong tailors are so expensive and a really good one is hard to find."

As for Women's Lib, she is all for equal pay for equal work for women, but is against the militant aspects of the movement.

Finally, we began to discuss a very basic feminine emotion — jealousy. How does she feel when she sees her husband in the arms of another woman on the screen?

"It doesn't bother me one bit," she said with a laugh. "It is difficult to feel romantic you know when you are acting a scene in front of a camera and under the blaze of those powerful lights.

"It is only part of his job as an actor. We do have laughs over them. For instance, when we were watching his film, The Big Boss, there was a scene where Bruce faces a nude prostitute.

"He leaned over and whispered to me, 'Part of the fringe benefits.' That is how we take it."

Coffee had been served by then and we ended the interview. I was convinced that with an intelligent and sensible wife like Linda, it is no wonder that Bruce Lee considers her "his better half."

'My wife is the luckiest thing that ever happened to me — not the Big Boss'.

What he thinks of his wife

Linda Lee's boundless enthusiasm for Bruce Lee is only exceeded by his tremendous feelings for her.

For, in his own words: "My wife is the luckiest thing that ever happened to me— not The Big Boss."

The good-looking actor whom hundreds of girls would give their right arm for—one told a taximan that she was prepared to be his ninth concubine — went on to explain his great admiration for his wife.

"The important thing is that she understands me," he said. "I'm a loner by nature and she lets me be what I am. That is not easy.

"When I am down she doesn't try to overwhelm me with sympathy or make useless clucking noises as other women are prone to do.

"When I am happy she shares my joy.

"The other great thing about her is that she hasn't changed one bit in spite of my success (Linda had used the very same words to describe him).

"Wives of other great stars here start putting on airs and playing mahjong. But Linda is still the same as before."

But while he is ever-ready to sing his wife's praises, Bruce Lee insists on keeping his family life separate from his career. Once he finishes his work, he prefers to spend his leisure with Linda and their two lively children, Brandon, 7, and Shannon, 3.

"When Linda was pregnant the first time I was quite confident that it was going to be a boy," he said with pride. "We only chose a boy's name for the unborn baby. We didn't even bother thinking of a girl's name.

"Sure enough Linda had a boy—8 lb 11oz Brandon.

"The second time I had decided it was going to be a girl, so we only chose a girl's name. And we had Shannon."

He is absolutely happy with his two bundles of joy and has no plans to have more. Like all parents the world over, Bruce Lee is immensely proud of his two children, particularly Brandon whom he once fondly described as "a blonde haired grey-eyed Chinaman."

Next month Brandon will be starting his second year in a school in Hong Kong which teaches in English as well as Chinese. Having lived in the US for most of his life Brandon's Chinese is a little weak and he has to have private tuition in the language.

Right now the little man is not too cheerful for his parents have insisted that tuition will continue during the summer vacation.

Bruce Lee makes no bones about how proud he is of Brandon. He declared: "Brandon takes after me. He is full of energy always running around and never sitting still for a minute."

Young Brandon has the makings of a good fighter too. A few weeks ago when the whole Lee family appeared in a Hong Kong TV show for charity, the seven-year old boy thrilled viewers by breaking two one-inch planks with a side kick.

He has been practising with his father since he was two, but Bruce Lee is against regular lessons for the moment because he feels that Brandon is still too young.

Shannon, the baby in the family, will be starting nursery school in September. She is probably too young to understand and probably wonders what all the fuss over her father is about.

Bruce Lee himself is the fourth child in a family of five. His father, a well-known Cantonese opera actor, Lee Hoi Chuen, is dead while his mother lives in Los Angeles with his younger brother, Robert, who is now studying computer science.

His two sisters are married while his elder brother, who holds a masters degree in physics and mathematics, is working in the Royal Observatory in Hong Kong. His brother has won a fencing championship in the British colony.

Until this year Bruce Lee and Linda were living in a 20,000 sq. ft. house in Los Angeles. They had originally planned to stay in the States and to fly to Hong Kong only for his filming.

But the fantastic success of his second film, Fist of Fury, convinced him that his immediate future lay in the Chinese movie industry and the family decided to make Hong Kong their base. Bruce, his wife and children moved into their new house early this month.

Bruce Lee has his own study in the house—for reading and writing more movie scripts—and is planning to build a gym where he can spar with his close friends.

'The other great thing about her is that she hasn't changed one bit in spite of my success.'

THIRD OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

TOMORROW: WHAT OTHERS SAY

A NEW NATION EXCLUSIVE BY PANG CHENG LIAN

Bruce Lee with Nora Miao Ker Siew

Nora Miao: He makes you feel at ease

Next to Mrs. Linda Lee, Nora Miao Ker Siew, Golden Harvest's bright young actress, is probably one of the most envied women in Asia today.

The reason? Winsome Nora Miao who looks much younger than her 21 years, has appeared in all three films which star Bruce Lee, the heart-throb of thousands of girls in Asia.

Nora Miao appeared as guest star in The Big Boss — remember the ice-water seller? — and the leading lady in Fist of Fury and the unreleased Enter the Dragon.

While others can only write to the superstar to express their desire "to touch and feel the art of your deadly right hand," as one Filipino girl did, pretty Nora Miao acts out tender love scenes with him as part of her job.

But Nora Miao, whose real name is Chan Win Han, takes these scenes in her stride.

"I do as the director asks," she said, when asked to comment on her kissing scene with Bruce Lee in the film, Fist of Fury. "But I stop at kissing. Anything more than that, I'll refuse."

Nora Miao, who was an assistant secretary before she joined Golden Harvest two years ago, has starred in seven films, three of which were with Bruce Lee. At a meeting in Hong Kong, she described how she feels about working with the superstar.

"He is very good on the set," she said, in beautiful English. "He has the ability to put you at ease and make you feel the character you are playing in the film.

"He is also very considerate. When we were in Rome he took good care of me.

"Altogether he is a nice guy. Sometimes you feel that he is just a little proud, but I guess he has something to be proud of."

It turned out that Bruce Lee was not a total stranger to Nora Miao. Their two families have actually been friends for a long time.

"It is a rather complicated sort of relationship," Nora Miao said with a beautiful smile. "But Bruce Lee's sister-in-law is the daughter of my father's classmate, who was very close to my family.

"And Bruce Lee's brother used to be my boyfriend. He is now studying in the US. Naturally I used to hear a lot about Bruce Lee, so he wasn't really a complete stranger when we began working together."

Nora Miao has started work on a new film in Taipeh after her latest film with Bruce Lee, Enter the Dragon. Bruce Lee is not in the new film, but she says that she would like to work with him again.

He is easy to fight

Bruce Lee has the better physique and better kicking style, but Wang Yu, the One-Armed Swordsman, achieves more realism in his actions.

This is the opinion of Mr. Lo Wei, the director who has had the rare distinction of working with the two leading "fighters" in the Chinese movie industry.

Mr. Lo Wei directed The Big Boss and Fist of Fury, the two films which shot Bruce Lee into overnight stardom.

Since the Fist of Fury, Mr. Lo Wei has directed two other films which star Wang Yu.

One of the films, entitled A Man Called Tiger, was originally written by Mr. Lo Wei for Bruce Lee, but there was apparently some misunderstanding between the two men and the film was shot with Wang Yu instead.

Mr. Lo Wei was not the only one in Hong Kong who believes that Wang Yu puts more realism into his punches. One actor who has "fought" with the two men in separate films, told me at another interview that he found sparring with Bruce Lee quite easy when compared with Wang Yu, whose insistence on making the fight real left his body "black and blue."

Asked to comment on the great success of his two films with Bruce Lee, Mr. Lo Wei said: "Frankly I never expected The Big Boss to do so well. I estimated it to be able to collect about HK$1.5 million ($750,000).

"I think 80 per cent of the credit should go to Bruce Lee. He is a good fighter and actor."

Mr. Lo Wei, who has more than 30 films to his credit, half of which are action films, was not originally scheduled to direct The Big Boss. But at the last minute there was a change of directors and he flew down to Bangkok to take over.

"It was terrible," he said. "I found everything in a mess and even the script had to be re-written. So I found myself shooting in the day and re-doing the script at night."

Mr. Lo Wei, 53, was more confident of his second film with Bruce Lee, Fist of Fury. He had written the script especially for Bruce Lee and he was certain that the nationalistic theme of the film would make it even more popular than The Big Boss.

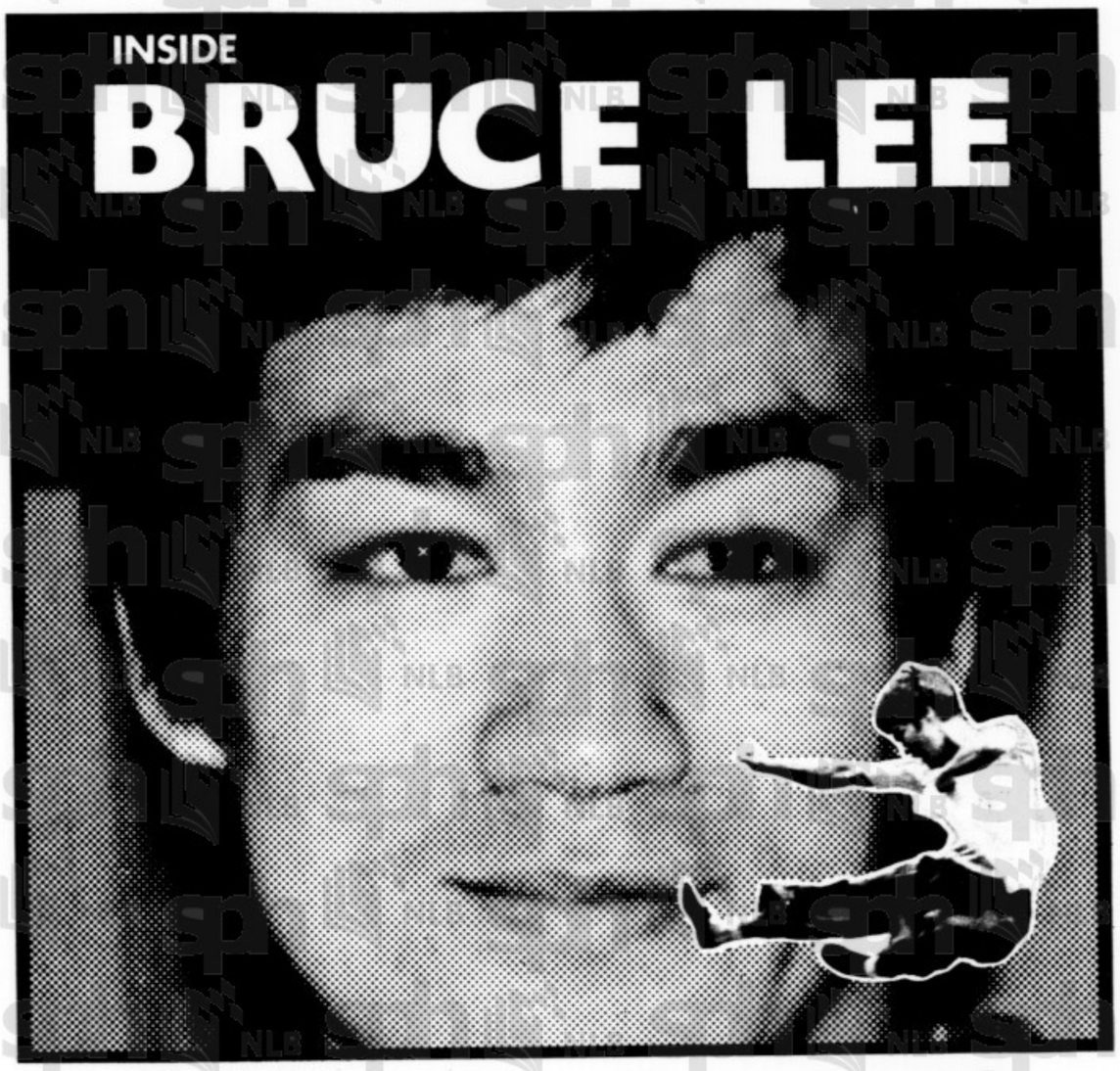
Mr. Lo Wei, who has been in the film industry for more than 35 years—he started as an actor—is of the opinion that fighting films are here to stay for quite a while.

"People want to see action," he said. "In such a fast moving world movie-goers do not like sitting through a non-action film. They find it too slow.

"As for the violence in the films. I think that there has to be some in an action film. But some directors do get carried away and some films become unnecessarily bloody."

Lo Wei

INSIDE BRUCE LEE



Producer who discovered the superstar

Slim and sprightly Mr. Raymond Chow, the producer of The Big Boss and Fist of Fury, would be the first to deny it, but there is little doubt that the prize for "discovering" Bruce Lee should rightfully go to him.

For it was this producer of more than 10 years' experience who first recognised Bruce Lee's potential and got him to sign a contract with two-year-old Golden Harvest fo which he is part owner. Over lunch in Hong Kong last week Shanghai-born Mr. Chow described how it happened.

"Actually I have known Bruce since he was a child actor years ago," Mr. Chow said in fluent English. "I was impressed, but he went to the States and we forgot about him.

"In 1970 he appeared in Hong Kong TV for a demonstration of Jeet Kune Do. I didn't see the show, but everyone who did acclaimed it.

"Then I heard that Bruce was interested in making a film here. He had asked a friend to approach Shaw Brothers, but the deal fell through apparently because Shaws wanted to treat him as a completely new actor.

"So I rang him up in his Los Angeles home. I asked him if it was true that he was interested in doing a film here and he said yes.

"Bruce suggested that I post him the terms, but I decided that if he were serious I would send Liew Lian Hwa (wife of Lo Wei, the director) to talk with him personally in Los Angeles. The contract was signed in the States."

Up to then Mr. Chow revealed, the only thing he had seen of Bruce Lee was his Green Hornet TV series. There was no screen test; and Bruce Lee flew direct to Bangkok for his first film, The Big Boss.

Mr. Chow, who has "discovered" several stars for Shaws, where he was working before he came out to start Golden Harvest — he produced Love Eterne which made Ivy Ling Po an overnight success — is most impressed by Bruce Lee's "frightful dedication."

"He is a very dedicated man," Mr. Chow said. "He concentrates very hard on whatever he is doing.

"Right now, for example, he is finishing up Enter the Dragon which he directed. He is supervising every detail of the production."

As for the reasons for Bruce Lee's success, Mr. Chow said: "Partly it is because of his fighting sequences. People know that he is doing the real thing.

"Another factor is the characters he has played so far. In both films he played very likeable and admirable men of guts and courage.

"Finally I think his personality has something to do with it. His happy-go-lucky attitudes appeal to movie-goers."

So far Bruce Lee has made two films for Golden Harvest, The Big Boss and Fist of Fury, and one for Concorde (unreleased), a joint venture between him and Mr. Chow.

Raymond Chow

Paul Wei

Colleagues also think he is great

Bruce Lee seems to have the knack of making fans even out of his colleagues. Paul Wei Pin Aw, a character actor with more than 10 years' experience and who played the role of the fawning interpreter in Fist of Fury, is among those who have been completely won over by Bruce Lee.

"I think he is great," he said in English. "He is a very easy person to work with. Because he is such a frank person you tend to like him immediately.

"I first met him when we were shooting Fist of Fury, and we got on very well, partly perhaps because I can speak English with him."

Paul Wei, who also plays a role in Enter the Dragon, was just as enthusiastic about Bruce Lee as a director.

"His first attempt at directing is beyond my expectations," he said. "He is clearly very concerned with his work and takes great care over it.

"He has also read a lot of American literature and books on movie production and this has helped him to succeed in putting beauty into his work."

CONCLUSION

Actor with the appeal of a small boy

A million dollar actor with the disarming appeal of a small boy — that is Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong in a nutshell.

The good-looking actor may be the biggest money-maker in the Chinese movie industry in Hong Kong today, but he is amazingly lacking in self-esteem and arrogance, an affliction which few successful people manage to be free of.

Self-confidence, yes; the man is simply oozing with it, and with good reason. His first two Chinese films have been box-office breakers and his third, which he directed, appears to have the potential of being another record smasher.

Furthermore, Bruce Lee knows that his audience appreciates him because he gives them the real stuff. He has been learning martial arts since he was a kid and has been teaching Jeet Kune Do since he was 18.

So long as he projects his skills on the screen therefore, he needs have little fear of losing his popularity.

But Bruce Lee is not prepared to settle for this sort of superstar image—he dislikes the use of the word "superstar" and prefers to be called an "actor" — and instead hopes to see himself as one of those who will go down as a leading innovator of the Hong Kong movie industry.

Having seen and worked in American film productions, Bruce Lee is painfully aware that Chinese movies pale by comparison with their western counterparts. One senses that he sees himself as a pioneer in the Hong Kong film industry.

TACT

Since the success of Fist of Fury, he has ventured into the world of script writing and film directing. Those who have seen the rushes are highly impressed by it, and when I saw him adding the sound effects for the film in Hong Kong two weeks ago, it was like watching a young enthusiastic boy experimenting with a fascinating new game.

The budding director's interest and concentration in the film was obvious. So was his tact in handling those who worked with him. At every stage of the recording he made it a point to ask the opinions of the sound effects crew.

Requests for a repeat were never made in the form of an order. Instead they were given in the form of a question: "Don't you think that door was just a little slow in that last scene?"

To upkeep his principle of doing only good films, Bruce Lee is also trying to keep down productions to three a year. This way, he feels, he can devote his full attention to each of the films.

But how far Bruce Lee will be able to keep his ideals remains to be seen. Will he be able to resist the tempting offers which are likely to increase both in number and in money if his third film is another box-office hit?

Will his enthusiasm wane as he sees the lack of professionalism in Hong Kong's film industry? It is possible that instead of rousing the Chinese film industry to greater heights, the idealistic young man may become affected by his colleagues and concern himself only with making money.

Alternatively, it is also possible that the very much Americanised actor is really using his Chinese films as a stepping stone to the Western movie industry which offers better scope and monetary returns.

Whatever his intentions and future may be, Bruce Lee is undoubtedly the man of the hour in Hong Kong's movie world today. Yet for a man of his status and fame, there is surprisingly few airs and no sign of haughtiness.

FRANK

A Hong Kong reporter who covers the film industry for his Chinese newspaper and therefore makes it a business to know all there is to know of the movie personalities, volunteered the assessment that Bruce Lee is probably one of the most friendly of the "big stars."

Most people, I think, find his frankness and openness irresistible. Perhaps a characteristic built up through his long stay in informal and casual America, Bruce Lee is an extremely friendly and affable man.

All those I spoke to in Hong Kong indicated that they thought his greatest asset lay in his charming personality. He is the sort of man who smiles when he grips your hand upon being introduced instead of looking somewhere else while offering you his limp hand.

And it is difficult not to like a cheerful person. Perhaps being a success has something to do with it, but Bruce Lee is a cheerful man who laughs easily and does not miss an opportunity to contribute his joke to liven any gathering.

During one of our conversations, Bruce Lee described himself as "a loner." I am more inclined to put him down as a sociable optimist.

Bruce Lee signs autographs.

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The military men at the helm...

Marshal Thanom

General Prapass

THAILAND

After less than three years of parliamentary rule, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn found that the problems and challenges that came with democracy were too much for him to cope with.

His bloodless coup two weeks ago, like the one staged by the late strongman Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat 13 years ago, served to underscore once more the predominance of the Thai military in the country's political life.

The two so-called revolutions are remarkably similar in style and pattern although their consequences are certain to be different.

The latest coup has been attributed by political observers here to a number of knotty problems which surfaced simultaneously in the past few months. The coup is thus viewed as a convenient way out for a leader who felt he could never grapple effectively with these problems unless he was given absolute authority.

SUSPICION

Some observers, however, believe that the revolution is the logical climax of the rising dissatisfaction among high-ranking Thai military leaders with the vociferous and sometimes overly aggressive House of Representatives. More than anything else, the dissatisfaction centred on the accelerating rift to the left among many opposition parties in the wake of China's entry into the UN.

For one thing, the military leaders, many of them with key posts in the Cabinet and various government ministries and departments, never had any real faith in the elected House. Indeed, some recent incidents had led them to view some House members with suspicion and even with contempt.

The military leaders were convinced that they knew more about how to run the country than any civilian politician. This confidence stems in large part from the fact that the armed forces are the largest, the most closely-knit and the best disciplined group which wields the most political influence in the country.

The military leaders also feel sure that the armed forces have men of varying talents who can perform any kind of work in the government. Moreover, unlike the civilians, their men know how to obey orders and carry them out in strict military fashion.

ACCUSED

If the Thai military men did not hold the House members in due esteem, they were not entirely to blame. For their part, many House members including a number of the government-backed United Thai People's Party (UTPP) MPs, do not seem to have acted responsibly and some had even been accused of abusing the privileges and prestige of their office.

Many opposition MPs were alleged to have tried to obstruct the administration of the government for the sake of publicity by none other than Marshal Thanom. He claimed that the government's work had been much hindered in the past three years of democratic rule because the budget Bills were never passed on time.

The annual budget Bill debate was only one of the many thorny issues which Marshal Thanom's government had to contend with in the House. The government also found it difficult to get many controversial Bills passed swiftly despite the fact that the UTPP commanded a majority of House seats.

The slow parliamentary process is frowned upon by the military leaders who had never really learned to acquire new skills in dealing with the aggressive opposition representatives or with the government party's own truant MPs.

MPs were also accused of trying to interfere with the functions of various government agencies. There were unconfirmed reports that some MPs attempted to meddle with the appointment and transfer of officials in the judicial branch.

The biting rhetoric and verbal attacks against the administration by some opposition party members also irritated the military members in Marshal Thanom's Cabinet. But such resentment only showed how much more the military men will have to learn to live with political dissent before democracy can really take root in a country where the people are not very noted for their political awareness.

Their disenchantment with Parliament, coupled with the rising crime rate which could not be curbed satisfactorily by due constitutional process, led some military officers and not a small number of other people to look back favourably on Sarit's era, when his iron-hand dictatorial rule brought peace and stability to the nation.

LEAFLETS

Recently, a group of people calling themselves Young Military Officers distributed to the Press leaflets urging the government to take drastic action to "bring the country back to its good old shape or else."

These leaflets were never taken very seriously by either the government or the public at that time. But looking back now after the coup, some observers say the leaflets could indeed have been distributed by some dissatisfied members of the armed forces.

Against this background, some recent developments posed new dilemmas for Marshal Thanom's government. The most pressing was undoubtedly the problems that arose with the entry of China into the UN.

Despite the government's declared caution in coming to terms with the Chinese, many opposition MPs seized on the new world political trend to demand that Marshal Thanom establish immediate diplomatic ties with Peking. A number of MPs sought in vain for permission to visit China and some volunteered to contact the Chinese directly on behalf of the Thai government.

The swing to the left gained momentum shortly before the coup when a group of opposition MPs, some of them well known for their leftist leanings held a Press conference and reiterated their call for the government to open an immediate link with the Chinese.

For the security-conscious military members of the Cabinet, the demand represented a dangerous trend. In a speech after the coup, Marshal Thanom pointed out that China's support for local insurgents had not decreased or ceased since its UN admission and that the Communist terrorists were keeping up their salvos against government forces.

The military men were also uncertain about how Thailand's 3 million Chinese would react once a Thai-China tie was forged. They contended that should the local Chinese secretly side with China and lent support to local terrorists, the situation could easily become impossible to manage.

The internal fueding within the UTPP also threatened to disrupt the administration. The UTPP was known to have been divided into several factions, each supporting a government leader from whom it could reap benefits and privileges.

CONTROVERSY

One controversy erupted early this month when some UTPP expressed their dissatisfaction with the way the government handled the 1972 budget. The UTPP-controlled Budget Scrutiny Committee had trimmed a sizeable portion from the budget and then reallocated the fund to the Defence Ministry as counterpart fund for US military aids.

However, some UTPP members wanted the money to be portioned out among the party MPs as a "development fund" to help their political campaigning in their respective provinces. The request was turned down.

The day before the coup took place, about 30 MPs were reported to have planned to boycott a UTPP party caucus the next day. The caucus, however, never took place because it was cancelled by Marshal Thanom who was holding a day-long meeting with military leaders to plot the revolution.

Even though Marshal Thanom has promised to draw up a provisional Constitution within three or four months and draft a permanent one in about a year, the coup has undoubtedly left another ugly political scar on the nation and set the political clock back several years.

It will mean, among other things, that civil liberties and freedom of the Press will now be restricted and that, like in Sarit's era, abuse of police power will likely occur because of the removal of parliamentary rein.

EXECUTION

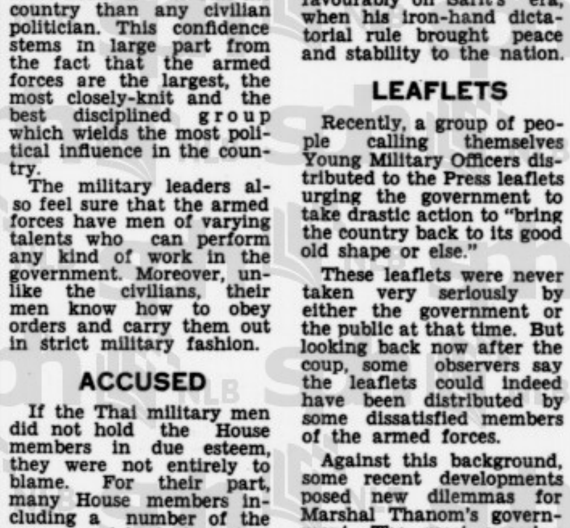
But for all the demerits, some people have publicly welcomed the coup since police will now be able to cope more effectively with crimes. Harsher treatment against criminals including execution before the firing squads will be re-introduced to frighten potential criminals into inactivity.

The Revolutionary Party, or the National Executive Council, will without doubt continue the long-standing anti-Communist policy and advance very cautiously towards any relations with the Chinese.

Some observers agree that the coup will also give an excellent chance for Marshal Thanom to reshuffle his Cabinet, which he promised to form in the next three or four months.

But whoever the Prime Minister is, the fact remains that in Thailand, the military men will continue to be at the helm of the government for a long time to come.

By A Special Correspondent in Bangkok



Students laying wreaths at Monument of Democracy.

Three-Kick Lee

BRUCE—BOX OFFICE BREAKER

HONG KONG

Actor Bruce Lee and the man behind The Big Boss, Golden Harvest's Raymond Chow, expect the action-packed Mandarin movie to break box office records in Singapore.

But Lee, the film's 30-year-old star, will not be in Singapore for the opening night.

He will be back in Hollywood acting as a pilot for an adventure television series called The Warrior.

It will be about a Chinese who flees from China after he kills the wrong person and ends up in the American West in 1860.

"Can you dig that?" he asks. "All those cowboys on horses with guns and me with a long green hunk of bamboo."

By the time the series is launched Lee should have something of an international reputation.

Raymond Chow is currently negotiating with film distributors in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, West Africa and the West Indies who want to handle The Big Boss.

According to Chow it will be the most widely distributed Chinese adventure film to be made and it also promises to be the biggest money spinner.

It has shattered every box office record in Hong Kong. It is the only film which has grossed more money at the box office here than The Sound of Music. Takings have soared towards the $2 million mark.

The sensational success of The Big Boss stunned everyone—including Bruce Lee and Raymond Chow.

"We knew it was going to be a success from the start, but I have to admit that we were not expecting it to be that successful," Lee said in an interview.

Bruce Lee

Lee is known as Three Kick Lee because of the unusual side-kicks he employs in Chinese boxing which consists of two fast side-kicks and a roll kick which he combines in one action.

He is a master of martial arts and made his living out of teaching them in the United States before he got his break in front of the cameras.

He began teaching in basements and parking lots after he graduated in philosophy from the University of Washington in Seattle.

His prices weren't cheap. He charged his students $1500 for a 10-hour course.

He said: "Just about the time I discovered that I didn't really want to teach self-defence for the rest of my life, I went to the Long Beach International Karate Tournament and got myself discovered by Hollywood.

"That was in 1964. Naturally I was signed up to play the No. 1 son of Charlie Chan, but the movie was never made.

"Then I got into the Batman series and did a season playing Kato in the Green Hornet."

Bruce Lee made his first screen appearance as a thug in Marlowe a detective film starring James Garner.

His performance in a TV series called Long Street earned him rave reviews from American critics.

Lee says that when he decided to come back to Hong Kong to make a film for Golden Harvest he went and saw as many Mandarin films as he could.

"They were awful," he said, "Everybody fought all of the time. What really bothered me was that everybody fought exactly the same way.

"When you get into a fight everybody reacts differently and it is possible to fight and act at the same time.

"What I hope is that The Big Boss will represent a new trend in Mandarin cinema. People like films that are more than just one long armed fight.

"Most of the Chinese films to date have been very superficial and one dimensional.

"With any luck, I hope to make multi-level films in Hong Kong — the kind of films where you can just watch the surface story if you want or you can look deeper into it if you feel like it."

In **SINGAPORE**, a big crowd caused a traffic jam at the entrance of Jurong Drive-In cinema on Saturday night in a big rush to see the midnight preview of The Big Boss. Saturday midnight screenings of the film at the Drive-In and Odeon were sold out.

From Margaret Spackman in Hong Kong

Mamiya creates the "ideal" camera the RB 67 professional

The RB67 Professional is the world's first 6x7 format revolving-back camera. Now you can choose the best possible composition for your photograph — vertical or horizontal. The Mamiya RB67 Professional is a new concept in cameras, designed especially for professional and semi-professional photographers. It features the versatile, large 6x7 cm. format, shockless mirror movement, mirror-up device, lens shutter with full MX synchronization. Standard lens is a 90 mm. F3.8 Mamiya/Sekor, and there is a range of three additional lenses, all interchangeable. The Mamiya multi-back system gives you the choice of colour or black-and-white at any time, and there is a multitude of accessories for added versatility. Inspect the revolutionary new Mamiya RB67 today — the camera that lets you choose either a horizontal or vertical format from the same reflex position.

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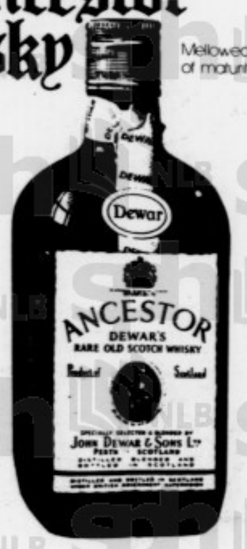

-9 SEP 1972

4th THE OLYMPIC RESULTS: TURN TO PAGE 15

NEW NATION

SINGAPORE Saturday evening, September 9, 1972 No. 506 Price 15 cents

Govt. told: Change book laws

'Only way to free students from danger of bad guide books'

By Pang Guek Cheng

The Singapore Book Publishers' Association has written to the Attorney-General's office urging a revision of copyright legislation in Singapore.

The association made a similar request in January, 1970.

A spokesman said the association fully supported the Consumers' Association of Singapore (CASE) on the question of guide books for students.

CASE recently warned students not to buy guide books without consulting their teachers.

It said many of the books contained errors so glaring that they could damage a student's chances of passing exams.

The book publishers' spokesman said Singapore's existing copyright law was based on a British statute of 1911. Its continued application was "not meaningful in view of the fact that it does not meet many of the contemporary problems and situations concerning copyright."

"The association hopes to gradually control the proliferation of guide books which it condemns as being uneducational," the spokesman said.

"Unfortunately, there are far too many unscrupulous individuals who prey upon the natural anxiousness of the students when examinations come, and give them very carelessly prepared questions and answers."

"There are, however, well planned guide books by reputable publishers, and the advice of CASE that students should seek their teachers' opinion before buying the books is very sound.

"Unfortunately, the absence of a strong copyright law in Singapore has prevented genuine publishers from taking action against the publishers of the bad guide books.

"Some texts have been pirated from other books and mutilated in the process.

"They encourage rote learning and undermine proper learning and teaching methods."

"All too frequently the compilers of these so-called guide books use material published by genuine publishers, but their interpretation of the context cannot be controlled.

"It is a common misconception that this sort of piracy is a boon to students in that educational materials are provided at lower cost. This is only true because no royalties are paid, no publishing risks taken and inferior and often unregistered printing used.

"The longer we delay a proper copyright law, the more children will suffer. We urge the government to take action now."

Singapore's present copyright law gives little protection to book publishers, who thus have to rely on the Trade Marks Ordinance. A consequence of this is that fines levied under this law are "grossly inadequate" — some pirates are fined as little as $50.

Syrians close airports after attacks

Cairo, Saturday

All Syrian airports and Syrian air space has been closed to air traffic, the Egyptian Middle-East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The agency said news of the closure had come in an urgent cable sent by Syria's international airport to Cairo international airport last night.

Israeli jets pounded targets in Syria and Lebanon yesterday in air raids which were apparently in retaliation for the Munich attack by Arab guerrillas on Israeli sportsmen.

A military spokesman in **DAMASCUS** said yesterday the Israeli raids "concentrated on civilian targets," MENA reported. He said the dead included a woman. The Israeli formations were forced to flee by Syrian fighters and air defences, the spokesman added.

In **TEL AVIV**, an Israeli military spokesman said Israeli positions in occupied Syrian Golan Heights came under shell fire overnight.

NEW THREAT

There were no casualties and the Israeli forces, in the Chisbin area of the heights, returned the fire.

Meanwhile West Germany tightened its guard against the threat of fresh violence from Arab commandos bent on avenging their five comrades killed in the bloody Munich Olympic raid.

Strengthened security controls were placed on oil pipeline installations and air terminals reckoned likely targets.

Police in **VIENNA** said they had information that three carloads of Arab commandos were on their way to Southern Austria from West Germany, but border guards have so far seen no sign of them.

The commandos — and nine Israeli Olympic team hostages whom they were trying to take out of Germany — died after West German police opened fire at Munich's Fuerstenfeldbruck airport. Three of the raiders were captured.

KUWAIT yesterday recalled its Olympic team from Munich, thus becoming the third Arab country to do so.

The Egyptian and Syrian Olympic teams have already returned from Munich following Tuesday's incident.

—Reuter

Now a song to Bruce Lee...

For a month now Taiwanese singer Ee Pin has been praising in song the film exploits of strongman Bruce Lee in a Singapore nightclub.

It finally reached Bruce's ears. And from Hong Kong he has written to thank Ee Pin.

Ee Pin, who wrote the song himself, had sent him a copy of his record.

The song "Lee Hsiao Loong" immortalises Bruce Lee's famous three kicks which have broken many a badman's jaw and rib on the screen.

NO MATCH

"Even the Japanese karate experts are no match for you, Bruce," Ee Pin croons night after night.

In his letter, dated Aug. 22, Bruce says: "We all appreciate your voice and talent. The contents of the songs are excellent. But you sing it even better. I feel I do not deserve all your high praise. Your song is so popular in Hong Kong that even my son can sing it."

OUR ROADS

Police reported 67 accidents yesterday. Ten were serious.

NEW NATION
TEL: 377611.

Malik's role as peacemaker

Offer accepted by Pak, Bangla

Dacca, Saturday

Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr. Adam Malik, said yesterday that Pakistan and Bangladesh have accepted his offer to act as mediator to help them solve outstanding problems.

Mr. Malik

He told reporters at the end of a four-day official visit he was in regular contact with the Pakistani government and was hopeful of a meeting between President Bhutto and Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mr Malik suggested when he arrived here that a possible way out of the present deadlock would be for the two sides to begin talks at the same time as Pakistan formally recognised Bangladesh, which until last December's war formed its eastern wing.

Bangladesh has so far refused to start talks until granted recognition by Pakistan.

Replying to a question on China's veto in the United Nations of Bangladesh's application to join the world body, Mr. Malik said: "China has a right to use its veto. We will try to persuade China to see reason and not to use its veto again."

The most important thing, he added, was for leaders of the two sides to meet on a basis of equal recognition and equal understanding.

Asked if he had any specific proposal to lessen tension in the subcontinent, Mr. Malik said it was important "to bring the two countries and two peoples closer to solving their problems."

He told a questioner he had no objection if the Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi, mediated between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Asked if trials of war prisoners in Bangladesh would heighten tension in the subcontinent and make mediation efforts more difficult, Mr. Malik said: "Both leaders must meet each other."

On the issue of the repatriation of Bangladesh from Pakistan, the Foreign Minister said the matter should be taken up with Pakistan directly instead of raising it at the United Nations. "We would appeal to Pakistan — that is the shortest way."

Asked if he had found any Soviet naval base in Bangladesh, Mr. Malik said: "As you know, Bangladesh says there are no bases and I believe that."

He told another questioner Indonesia was against foreign bases in any country, whether US bases in Vietnam or any other base anywhere else.

Asked what steps smaller nations in South-East Asia should take in the face of increased Chinese and Japanese influence, Mr. Malik said the situation had changed following the normalisation of relations between Peking and Washington and also between Tokyo and Peking.

Harbans case dates

The hearing of two summons charges against Barisan Sosialis candidate for Havelock, Harbans Singh Sidhu, for alleged defamation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, has been fixed for Oct. 9 and 10 in the First District Court.

Forecast

Weather forecast between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. today: Scattered showers with thunder.

● See page 2.

Fifty killed as bus plunges into lake

Phnom Penh, Saturday. —About 50 people were killed yesterday outside the Cambodian capital when a crowded bus ran off the road into a lake, police said.

Police, who have recovered five bodies which floated to the surface, said the bus left the road after swerving to avoid a military truck.

Passengers jammed into the bus coming from the south-eastern town of Neak Leung had no chance to escape as it plunged into 23 feet (seven metres) of floodwater.

The sad day Diana lost a shoe...

By Wee Beng Huat

On his right his eight-year-old daughter's body lies covered with a cloth. Behind him is the water that claimed her life.

Against this grim backdrop, factory supervisor Mr. Lim Choon Hock, 39, grappled with the loss of his only daughter.

"She was my only girl," he said with tears in his eyes. "She was the cutest girl in our neighbourhood."

Diana, a Primary One student of Nam Ann Chinese School, was returning to her Toa Payoh home in heavy rain on Wednesday when she lost her shoe after alighting from a bus.

It fell into a drain which flows past her flat at Lorong 1A. She went after it and was swept away.

Her body, with one shoe missing, was found at 11.15 a.m. yesterday at Kallang Basin, a mile away.

Mr. Lim said: "For two days we searched. A man said he saw a girl falling into a drain near our house. We had hoped it was not our Diana."

When she failed to return, Mr. Lim and his distraught wife hoped that she had been kidnapped — "at least she would be still alive."

But at 11 a.m. yesterday, the sad truth came to light. A villager told Diana's school teachers that a body was found covered in mud at Ah Hood Road.

Diana's parents were informed. Mrs. Lim rushed there and recognised her daughter. She broke down and wept.

The Lims have two other children — aged four and five.

Bid to save tigers

New Delhi, Saturday.— India is to launch a 58 million rupee (about $21 million) project next April to save the tiger from extinction.

A recent count revealed that only 1827 tigers remained in the country compared with about 40,000 at the turn of the century.

Strike ends

The E. Hopt Singapore (Pte) Ltd. strike was settled today as more than 70 workers of the electronic company reported for the morning shift at 7 a.m. Another 20 stayed away.

Body found

A 25-year-old mother of three, Goh Mui Hian, was found dead at the foot of a 12-storey block of flats in Queensaway early today.

'Intimate' communicates.
It's the new international language. You don't speak it. You feel it. Intimate, the fragrance that communicates.
Revlon

Secret Service is a good bet

From Blue Peter, Ipoh, Saturday

Go for **Secret Service** in Race 7 at Ipoh today. This well-bred Irish four-year-old by Road House II was given as an extra good thing on the course this morning.

He has been striding well in training and appears to have made tremendous progress since his third to Olympic Ace over 7f at Bukit Timah in July. First-up winner **Gomanwyn** has also improved and should run well again.

The going remains good.

The formidable Laurie Johnson-Garnet Bougoure combination should be on target again with **Tymkyn** in Race 1. Tymkyn, an Arctic Explorer six-year-old finished a creditable fourth to Very Active over 9½f at Kuala Lumpur last month.

Watania Commando, an impressive last start winner over 9f at Kuala Lumpur, is fancied by his connections to chalk up another win, but watch **Indrapura II**. The King's Own seven-year-old has been going great guns on the track.

Lucky owners Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Liem of Agasam stable should pick up another race with **Silver Belt** in Race 4. The Palestine Grey found Ultrasonic a trifle too smart for him last week but with Ultrasonic now in Class 5, he should come into his own.

Grey Charm and **The Conqueror II**, both last start winners, are fancied by their connections to complete a double.

Coronation Ace, also owned by the Lucky Agasam stable, is tipped to open winning accounts in Race 5. The Coronation Boy four-year-old did not jump off cleanly last Sunday but was running on when sixth to stablemate the Joker over 6f. He looks fitter now.

Keep an eye on **Show Boy** in Race 6. He was withdrawn last week in favour of stablemate Gomanwyn who duly obliged. He has been working as well as Gomanwyn and can score first-up.

Track Whisper
Race 6
PAHLAWAN II
Madame X
Forecast
Race 7
GOMANWYN
SECRET SERVICE

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BEHIND THE NEWS

Death of a superstar

The parallels with James Dean

By Pang Cheng Lian

MONDAY FOCUS

"The most important thing is job satisfaction. You have to enjoy what you're doing. The money is of secondary importance."

I did not know it then, but these were to be the last words I was to hear from Hong Kong's million dollar actor - cum - director-cum-scriptwriter.

The conversation over a trunk call took place a mere two weeks ago and who would have thought then that this leading exponent of the martial art would have his life snuffed out so soon?

Yet, in retrospect, these last few sentences sum up the superstar's ideas and philosophy in a nutshell.

At every meeting and interview I had with him in Hong Kong, Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong had stressed this same point—he was enjoying the work he was doing, and that was what was most important to him.

He was undoubtedly appreciative of the luxuries of life. His success enabled him to buy a palatial eight - room home in Kowloon worth at the time of purchase, $750,000.

Early this year he was reported to have ordered a Rolls-Royce sports car costing $175,000. And he frankly admitted that he liked to buy beautiful clothes although he seldom had the chance to use them because of his dislike for social engagements.

But he was certainly not a money worshipper. As he said during one of our meetings, "Sure, money is important in providing for my family and for giving us what we want. But it isn't everything."

(He turned down an offer of $125,000, just to appear in a TV commercial).

More important to the San Francisco-born actor who had started his own school of martial arts known as jeet kune do, was to gain international recognition for Chinese films.

The 32-year-old superstar who had spent half of his life in the United States, believed that his task was to bridge the cultural gap between East and West by producing films which would be appreciated by peoples on both sides of the world.

The inferior quality of Chinese productions, he maintained had been one of the reasons for the lack of international recognition, and Bruce Lee considered it his vocation to remedy this weakness.

Judging by the box office takings of his first three films, The Big Boss, Fist of Fury, and The Way of the Dragon (which was written and directed by him) it would appear that he had succeeded. The Big Boss, which was renamed Fist of Fury, was recently screened at the Cannes Film Festival, and is reported to be doing very well in theatres in America and Europe.

After the success of his first two films, which made him a superstar overnight, Bruce Lee had insisted on maintaining a high standard in all his other films. For this reason, he ventured into the fields of script-writing and film directing, both with great success.

"One must always strive for the best," he told me once. "The sky's the limit."

And to be best, he thought, one had to give full concentration to whatever one is doing. So he made it a point to limit his film productions to three a year, although offers to do more were not hard to come by.

When I was in Hong Kong last year, rumours were that some producers were prepared to pay him a million Hong Kong dollars for each film, and this was before his success as a director!

Yet a mere two years ago, Bruce Lee was a relative unknown. He had starred in two TV series and had acted small boys' roles in several Chinese films when he was young, but few had noticed him.

Born in San Francisco but brought up mainly in Hong Kong, Bruce Lee had no difficulty getting into the film industry even during his childhood; his father Lee Hoi Chuen was a Cantonese actor. Playing children's parts was not terribly exciting, however, and Bruce Lee decided to return to the US at 18.

He enrolled at the University of Washington in Seattle, but also started a martial arts class as a part-time job. It was here that he met his wife Linda. They married 10 years ago, when he decided to leave Seattle for Oakland and she agreed to move with him.

Bruce Lee never completed his university course. He had got involved in TV work by then and he gave up studies for acting and teaching his special brand of martial arts, Jeet Kune Do.

While in the States, he heard about the rise of pugilistic films in Hong Kong and Taiwan and decided to return to the British colony to have a look for himself. During his stay he did a martial arts demonstation over TV in Hong Kong and that was the first step to stardom.

For although Raymond Chow the producer and co-owner of Golden Harvest, did not see the show, he was so impressed by what he heard from those who had, that he rang up Bruce Lee in his Los Angeles home to find out if he was interested in doing a film for his company.

Not a man to allow the grass to grow under his feet Raymond Chow sent Liew Lian Wah, wife of director Lo Wei to the US with the contract when Bruce Lee answered in the affirmative. So began the firm friendship and lucrative partnership between the two men.

Mr. Chow was so confident of his man that there was not the usual film test. Bruce Lee was asked to report direct to Bangkok, where his first film, The Big Boss, was to be shot, directed by Lo Wei.

In this first film, Bruce Lee fans will remember, the actor played the role of an overseas Chinese who has come to Thailand to work in an ice factory. His employer, however, tums out to be a heroin dealer and Bruce Lee decides to deal with him after his colleagues in the factory are killed by the drug gang.

The film, and particularly, Bruce Lee's style of fighting, proved to be a best-seller and The Big Boss became the first film to break the record set up by The Ten Commandments in Singapore.

Bruce Lee then went into his second production with Golden Harvest—Fist of Fury. Again it was directed by Lo Wei and produced by Raymond Chow.

This time, however, Bruce Lee played the role of Chan Chen, a Chinese patriot who sacrifices his life to avenge the death of his martial arts teacher who had been killed by the Japanese.

Again the film was a tremendous success, and even the American film industry began looking at the actor with new respect and interest. While negotiations with Warner Brothers proceeded on the one hand, Bruce Lee decided to set up Concorde with Raymond Chow.

The first film to be produced by the new company was The Way of the Dragon, but this time it was entirely Bruce Lee's baby. His unhappiness with Lo Wei, the director of his two previous films, was by now an open secret, and Bruce Lee decided to direct the new film himself.

Shot in Rome, the film concerned a Chinese restuarant being pressurised by an Italian mob. The restaurant owner writes to his relative in Hong Kong for help, who in turn sends Bruce Lee, who, of course, beats the Italian hoods into a bloody mess in no time at all.

Not surprisingly the film was another box office success, and Bruce Lee went on to star in Enter the Dragon, a joint production with Warner Brothers, and The Game of Death, a Concorde production. Both of these films have not been screened locally.

When I spoke to him a fortnight ago, the actor was telling me that negotiations were going on for another co-production with Warner Brothers.

Despite his heavy schedules, the actor was very much a family man, preferring to spend his leisure hours with his wife and their children Brandon, 8, whom he referred to fondly as the first "blonde-haired, grey-eyed Chinaman", and Sharon, 4.

Brandon who is studying in Hong Kong, appeared on TV with his father for a charity show last year to display his martial skill, and was an immediate hit. But father Bruce Lee was determined that his son should not take regular martial lessons because he was "too young."

A student of martial arts since he was 13, Bruce Lee was firmly against mass education of students along traditional methods. He felt that each man had to work out his own style of self-defence.

"Not every man can take lessons to be a good fighter," he said. "He must be a person who is able to relate his training to the circumstances he encounters."

This former instructor of actors like James Coburn, was of the opinion that there was nothing wrong about violence in films because "violence and aggression is part of everyday life now."

But he was just as determined that violence and aggression should not be used as the main themes of films. "The glorification of violence is bad," he said.

Bruce Lee will be remembered for his pugilistic skills by his many fans in Singapore and throughout South-East Asia. It is a pity that they will now not have any chance to know the man himself — his remarkable friendliness, his impish sense of humour and his disarming frankness.

I recall the time when he interrupted a conversation we were having, to say hello to a film worker walking in the distance. When the man looked up Bruce Lee realised that he had recognised the wrong man, but he added "Well, good morning all the same."

Then there was the other occasion when he broke off his whistling to announce to everyone, "I tell people I have a rich voice — because it is well off."

And while everybody else was giving high praise to his first two films which shot him into international stardom, the actor himself was critical of both productions. Although he was a little happier with The Way of the Dragon, he declared that there was still room for improvement.

Asia's superstar is dead—as suddenly and as unexpectedly as his rise to international stardom.

Until two years ago, Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong was an unknown, although he had taken roles in The Green Hornet and Long Street, two TV series, and had played a very minor role in Marlowe.

Then he came to Hong Kong "to see if I could put in my two bits in the film industry" and ended up starring in The Big Boss, which went on to break box office records in Hong Kong, Singapore and other parts of South - East Asia.

Retitled Fist of Fury, the film is now being shown to packed houses in the US.

Today Bruce Lee has become a household name in Singapore. His pictures emblazon tee-shirts, paper lanterns and even Chinese New Year greeting cards.

Songs have been written about him and the characters he played in the three films that have been shown in Singapore.

His box office attraction was soon noted by the West and he was the first Chinese actor to sign up for a leading role in a Warner's production, Enter the Dragon.

The film has not been shown in Singapore as yet.

Even within the two short years that he reigned as Asia's superstar, the million-dollar actor achieved what he had set out for—the introduction of Chinese films into the international market.

But like James Dean, the young American actor whose meteoric rise to stardom was abruptly cut by a motor accident, Bruce Lee's contribution to the Chinese film industry has been suddenly stopped by the cruel hand of fate.

New Nation's Monday Focus pays tribute to this Chinese star who gave the Chinese film industry a new lease of life and whose death is mourned even in Singapore a city he had planned to visit when he was "more free."

King boxer Bruce Lee, champion of the Chinese, leaps from the balcony as the pistols of bellicose Japanese and their lackeys roar a smoky volley. And his romantic death is freezed in the final frame.

In the Fist of Fury, at least, his exultant fans were spared the agony of seeing his broken, life-less body.

After dying his real death last weekend, he leaves thousands of his followers to mourn the passing of a trend he had brought to the Mandarin cinema.

He pioneered a fad, overshadowing the earlier and bloodier sword-fighting gore spewed by Wang Yu by introducing his own adaptation of Chinese kung fu — jeet kun do.

More a fighter than an actor, he overwhelmed Asian audiences with his triple and flying kicks, sinew-bursting punches, a Charles Atlas physique and a boyish charm which won over the hearts of his feminine fans.

With three films doing tremendous box-office business throughout the world and the latest yet to be released, Lee had been the leading personality in the Hong Kong film industry.

His epics grossed over $10 million in Singapore and Hong Kong alone, the pulling power lying not only in his rippling muscles but also in a cultural chauvinism which struck a cord of response among the Chinese.

Recently his films were introduced to a wider audience. In London, they were shown not only in Gerard Street but the main first-run cinemas as well.

In the Middle-East, he up-staged even James Bond — Sean Connery — in his latest 007 film.

And in the US, with the upsurge of interest in oriental art and culture after Nixon's visit to China last year, Americans flocked to see kung fu films opening all across the continent.

Bruce Lee's Fist of Fury grossed the highest among them—well over $1.8 million.

He was immediately dubbed Asia's first superstar of the movies, a title which he deserved for having helped put Mandarin films in international cinemas.

Lee's death comes soon after he finished making his first major English-language film, Enter the Dragon, which he co-produced with Warner Bros.

Born in America, the 32-year-old star was to have gone back to his country of birth to promote the film at premieres.

His fans are in a state of shock. Many will refuse to believe he is dead.

And in a way, they will be right. In all probability, Leo will continue to flex his sound-effected tendons and wield his nunchaku with undiminished deadliness.

It is a phenomenon of the cinema that a giant star lives on even after his death—as though his larger-than-life appearances on the screen endow him with immortality.

If Lee's latest film is released within the next few months, it will evoke a kind of eeriness that attended James Dean's last film, The Giant.

The Hollywood actor died in a sports car crash soon after he completed the film.

With his enormous popularity, Lee might just become a larger image than he really was.

One can just begin to see the parallel between the stories of Lee and Dean.

By Edgar Koh

Bruce Lee reading New Nation

Fans mourn

Singaporeans took the news of Bruce Lee's death with shock and disbelief. A stream of anxious fans rang this office to confirm the news on Saturday morning and below are their reactions.

MR. TONY YEOW, producer and director of Singapore's first film, Ring of Fury: "It is really shocking. Bruce Lee started a new trend for the Chinese film industry. He put Chinese films on the map of the world, so to speak."

MR. WILLIAM ONG, a transport contractor and a student of the Ngor Mei Pai, the Art of the Fighting Nuns: "It is a great loss. As a student of martial arts, I liked his style of fighting. He always struck me as being a very humble man."

MR. FRANCIS LAU, who has seen all three of Bruce Lee's films in Singapore: "It is a sad thing. He is one of the best actors I have ever come across."

MR. K. S. TAN, who has only seen one of his films: "It's a great loss to the film industry. He was the first famous Chinese movie star and I feel very proud of him."

MRS. A. L. BELLETTY, who has not seen a single Bruce Lee film, but was still concerned enough to ring up New Nation when she heard the news of his death: "He is a man of world standing, and from what I read, he had very good qualities. I feel deeply moved by his sudden death."

MRS. E. T. LEE, felt that his death was a real waste and commented that "the good die young."

MR. TOM CHEANG, said that he was at a loss for words. "No star has ever impressed me as much as Bruce Lee. His death is a great loss, to clean violence," he said.

Bruce Lee in Chinese costume

IT'S A mad mad mad mad mad mad mad mad mad mad mad mad WORLD

OLIVE HAYNES plans to get to the church on time this weekend—for six weddings.

Nothing unusual about that. It's about her average.

For Olive, a 51-year-old factory cleaner in Northamptonshire, has a 'thing' about white weddings.

In 33 years she has been to more than 10,000 of them.

"I never had a white wedding myself, which is the main reason I do it," she said yesterday.

Over the years she has become the odd, unknown face in the back of thousands of wedding pictures.

Her 62-year-old husband George thought she was "barmy" at first, but now drives her from church to church.

Olive's big target this year is Princess Anne's wedding at Westminster Abbey in November. But she won't be making a personal appearance.

"I'll watch it on TV. I expect I'll see much more that way."

* * *

GARAGE owner Franz Kederer devoted his life to building up his small business at Schwarzenfeld, in Bavaria.

His hard work cost him his marriage when his wife left him because he neglected her.

But he went on working long hours so that he could hand over the thriving enterprise to his only son.

His dream was shattered, however, when his son Egon, 17, told him: "I don't want to work in a garage. I want to be a teacher."

Speechless, Franz, 48, struck Egon in the face and then got his pistol from his bedroom.

Returning to his son's side as he studied English, Franz without a word put the gun to his own head and pulled the trigger, killing himself instantly.

* * *

LONDON's public lavatories are probably the best in Europe, according to a report released by the Council of British Sanitaryware Manufacturers.

Council officials visited 27 lavatories in London and could find only one real fault. That was the lack of a public loo close to Buckingham Palace for tourists.

BONN Publican Fritz Rauch has just spent three days in Turkey — as a woman.

Fritz, 35, flew to Istanbul with an all-male party of his regular customers to taste some Turkish delights.

But when he got to Frankfurt Airport to begin his trip he discovered to his horror that he had picked up his wife's passport instead of his own.

With his plane about to leave, Fritz pleaded with West German passport control officers to let him leave the country on his driving licence.

They agreed, but warned him: "The Turks will put you on the next plane back to Germany."

At Istanbul Airport a sweating Fritz lined up with his chums and offered his wife's passport for inspection.

To his amazement and delight, the Turkish official glanced at his attractive, dark - haired wife's picture and apparently noticed nothing amiss.

Fritz successfully ran the Turkish gauntlet three days later when he caught a plane home.

Frankfurt Airport officials were not so lax. But they fell about laughing when Fritz told his story and waved him on his way.

Fritz's wife Gisela was not so amused. "How could the Turks make such a mistake?" she asked. "I'm much prettier than he is."

* * *

THE parents of seven Munich schoolboys picked to star in a TV film were tickled pink.

But they saw only red when the boys returned home after three days on location.

For the lads' hair had been dyed a fiery scarlet for the colour production.

When the angry parents protested to the TV station, each of the boys received $100 "compensation" on top of the $4200 paid for their parts.

One of the boys, 13-year-old Herbert Jarczyk, said: "We thought our new hair colour was fun—until we got back to school and were teased about it."

A spokesman for the TV station, refusing to split hairs over the episode, commented: "We should have asked the parents first."

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THEY CALLED THE SUPERSTAR
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President's 'no' to Mimi's plea

President Sheares has rejected the clemency plea against execution by former cabaret queen Mimi Wong Weng Siu.

The convicted murderess had appealed to the President to commute her death sentence to life imprisonment. The petition was sent by her counsel Mr. David Marshall last month.

Mimi, 34, and her husband Sim Woh Kum, 40 were sentenced to death on December 7, 1970, for the murder of her Japanese lover's wife, 33-year-old Mrs. Ayako Watanabe, in Mrs. Watanabe's Jalan Sea View flat.

Her appeals to the High Court and the Privy Council were rejected.

The murder trial was recorded in eight volumes totalling 2500 pages and lasted 26 days.

Mimi, it is understood, will be the first woman to go to the gallows in Singapore.

It is understood that Mimi was converted to Christianity in her death cell.

It now remains for the Chief Justice to fix a date for her execution after consultation with the prison authorities.

Execution usually takes place three weeks after the last appeal is rejected.

The love weight

Rome, Monday—A 17-year-old Italian peasant girl was treated at a hospital in Tempio Pausania for cuts received while dragging a weight of love.

Her father had chained her leg to a heavy iron weight to prevent her having any amorous adventures with local boys but she managed to reach a main road on Saturday from where a passing motorist took her to hospital for treatment.

Mimi Wong... wait for execution.

Four days of terror...

Tension mounts as hijackers hold on

Dubai, Monday

Tension mounted in this desert airport as officials waited anxiously for the guerrillas on board the hijacked Japan Airlines to make their next move.

The hijacked plane was refuelled yesterday. The fuel taken aboard was enough to fly two hours and 50 minutes, Japan Airlines, said here today.

But weight and balance checks—to see if the fuel is balanced in both wings and the body and where the 140 hostages are sitting aboard the aircraft — are required before it can take off, an airline spokesman said.

JAL President Shizuo Asada, now in **DUBAI**, has told reporters he does not believe the aircraft will immediately take off because the fuel is not balanced and the hijackers claim they are waiting for instructions from their "headquarters."

Meanwhile 140 hostages aboard the seized jumbo jet parked at the Dubai airport waited tensely for the hijackers' next move.

But there was still no sign of what the pro-Palestinian guerrillas who seized the plane on Friday soon after it took off from Amsterdam for Tokyo were planning to do next.

Nor was it clear yet what their real motive was in hijacking the JAL plane.

Earlier yesterday, at the hijackers' demand, the plane was refuelled.

The refuelling followed a second fruitless appeal to the hijackers by Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to which Dubai belongs, to free women and children from the plane.

The hijackers identified themselves as members of the Sons of the Occupied Territory Organisation and said they could release no one until they had instructions from their "headquarters."

Chief purser Mr. Yoshihisa Miyashita, injured in an explosion aboard the hijacked plane has said he believes the hijackers include one Arab, one Japanese and a European.

As tension mounted at Dubai, Israel was understood to be making emergency plans to prevent the hijackers from using the jumbo on a suicide mission, such as crashing it into an Israeli city or military installation.

Israelis believe this may have been the possible purpose of the hijack unless Israel released Kozo Okamoto, the only survivor of a three-man Japanese suicide squad which killed 28 people at Tel Aviv's Lydda airport 14 months ago.

A **TOKYO**, report said a placard praising the group which hijacked the jumbo jet appeared on the Kyoto University campus in Central Japan, yesterday.

"Hurrah for JAL hijackers," the placard proclaimed, "Hurrah for international guerrillas."

Police said they were investigating.

The two Japanese killed when they shot up bystanders at Lydda Airport, Israel, 14 months ago were students at Kyoto. Their companion was Kozo Okamoto.

Mrs. Fumiko Konuma, 49, wife of the pilot of the hijacked plane said yesterday: "Well, it's the age we live in."

She said as she waited anxiously for news about her husband Captain Kenji Konuma, 49, that he was a veteran pilot of 20 years.

"The lives of many people have been entrusted to my husband," Mrs. Konuma said. "I hope all the passengers and crew get back unhurt."

—UPI and Reuter

ON THE 'CHANGE

Scramble for rubber shares continued for the first 45 minutes this morning on the Stock Exchange of Singapore. Prices were firm.

BUSINESS DONE:

Batu Lintang (2) 3.00, (2) 3.10, (2) 3.08, (1) 3.02, (1) 3.04, (1) 3.06.

K.L. Kepong (10) 10.20, (1) 10.10, (2) 10.30, (1) 10.00, (1) 9.90.

Consolidated Plantations (7) 4.70, (9) 4.72, (7) 4.74, (5) 4.76, (1) 4.68.

Dunlop Estate (1) 3.98, (1) 4.00, (1) 4.02, (1) 4.06, (1) 4.04.

Kempas (1) 6.00, (1) 5.90.

Singapore Hilton (1) 2.05, (2) 2.04.

Central Securities (1) 3.00.

United Overseas Bank (1) 8.10, (1) 8.05.

National Iron (1) 8.10.

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (1) 12.50.

Haw Par (1) 6.05.

Sime Darby (9) 6.30, (1) 6.25, (10) 6.35.

Malayan Credit (1) 3.60, (1) 3.58, (1) 3.56.

Gammon (1) 2.00.

Development Bank of Singapore (7) 5.40, (2) 5.45.

Body found at sea

The body of a 15-year-old boy, R. Phinager of Block 72, Circuit Road, was found floating in the sea off Pulau Tekong yesterday.

His body was fished out from the sea by villagers at Kampung Permatang.

Thug's gun for tell-tale test

Was it used to kill detective?

By Bharathi Mohan and Douglas Chan

Ballistic tests will be carried out by police today on the revolver taken from dead gunman Hoo How Seng to ascertain whether it was the gun which killed Detective Constable Ong Poh Heng in Katong on July 12.

Police spokesman, Mr. Lawrence Loh this morning said: "The result of the test will be made known today."

Hoo of Pontian, Johor, was shot dead by police in an ambush outside his flat in Cavenagh Road last Saturday. He was wanted for armed robberies.

His description fitted that of the man who shot dead Det. Ong before a big crowd at the Still Road/East Coast Road junction.

Hoo's revolver — a Smith and Wesson — was similar to the one the killer took from Ong.

Just before he was shot dead at 10.50 p.m., Hoo, 20 received a mystery phone call asking him to leave the flat immediately.

The phone was handed to him by another woman sub-tenant in the flat.

Hoo put on his shirt, told his girl friend that he would be back and hurried down three flight of steps.

He saw the policemen outside the flat, pulled out his gun and fired. He was cut down in the exchange.

This morning, Hoo's family were at the mortuary to claim his body. His mother, Madam Lee Ah Tim, 60, his elder sister, Ah Mui, 27, and elder brother, Ah Lee, 24, arrived here after they heard the news yesterday.

According to them, Hoo had come to Singapore at the age of 17. He was the youngest in the family of four.

He was dissatisfied with being a farm hand in his father's vegetable plot at Pontian. He came here and worked for some time as a mechanic.

The family lost touch with him after that. Madam Lee said that Hoo did not come home. He did not send them any money. "We did not even know where he was staying," she said.

The last time they saw him was on Chinese New Year two years ago.

It was learned this morning that the gunman, who held a restricted Malaysian passport, was staying with his girl friend and another woman sub-tenant in the flat which he rented for $200 a month.

Two bar girls were also staying in the four-room flat at the top of the three-storey block.

According to Madam Teng Yoke Moi, 34, who was in the flat at the time of the shooting, Hoo came back from Johor with his girlfriend on Friday.

Madam Teng said that on Saturday afternoon, Hoo returned to the flat after a swim and had remarked that "Bruce Lee was dead."

A watchman, Mr. L. Ramasamy, 32, told New Nation soon after the shooting that he had seen Hoo driving a green Datsun car.

A car of similar make and colour was found abandoned at Airport Road a week after Det. Ong Poh Heng was shot dead in Katong. It is believed that this car was driven by the gunman.

OUR ROADS

Police reported 100 accidents yesterday. Four were serious and one fatal.

Forecast

Singapore's weather outlook from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. today — Occasional showers.

NEW NATION
TEL: 377611.

Big Boss costume for Bruce

By Pang Cheng Lian

The body of actor Bruce Lee Hsiao Loong is to be flown back to Seattle US for burial.

A UPI report from Hong Kong said today that Lee's body will be dressed in the Chinese costume which the actor used in his first boxing movie The Big Boss.

The picture, filmed in Thailand, broke all existing Hong Kong box office records when it was released in 1971.

A close friend of the family, Mr. Raymond Chow of Golden Harvest, told New Nation this morning by telephone that a funeral service for the actor will be held either tomorrow or Wednesday in Kowloon.

His body will then be flown to Seattle, hometown of his wife Linda.

It was in Seattle that Bruce Lee met his wife. He started a martial arts school there while still a student of Washington University when Linda enrolled as a student. Linda plans to return to Seattle with her two children, Brandon and Sharon.

The cause of death will not be known until this afternoon.

However Mr. Chow said that in May this year Bruce Lee had once collapsed in the studio and was unconscious for 2½ hours. He was in a serious condition in a Hong Kong hospital for several days.

His collapse was diagnosed as a "siezure" and the actor - turned - film director, subsequently flew to the US for a medical check-up.

Mr. Chow, who had been Bruce Lee's constant companion and adviser for the last 2½ years, was too upset to discuss his personal feelings for the actor. But he was able to tell me that there was no truth in speculation that Bruce Lee had overstrained himself during training on Friday.

"I was with Bruce the whole afternoon, working out a new script for his new film The Game of Death," Mr. Chow said.

"We had to alter the script a little, as we were going to bring George Lazenby into action.

"Then I left him to meet George and the three of us were going to discuss the script over dinner. When he failed to show up, I went to his home, I found him in a coma in bed and rushed him to hospital."

A 16-member committee organised by local movie producers, directors, actors and actresses has been set up to take care of the memorial service, which will be conducted in Chinese traditional ceremony and open to the public.

An American - made coffin costing more than US$31,400 (about $75,360) has been ordered for Lee.

Libya govt resigns

Tripoli, Monday

The Libyan Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdel-Salam Jalloud resigned last night two days after Colonel Muammar Gaddafi announced he quit as head of state on July 11.

An official statement by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), the supreme executive authority in the country, did not make it clear whether it accepted the resignation of the 18-man Cabinet.

But it added that if Colonel Gaddafi does not agree to return, the RCC would also resign.

Only on Saturday the RCC, of which Colonel Gaddafi was chairman, said it rejected their leader's resignation.

And earlier yesterday a government said here that there was no question of the Cabinet resigning to force the 31-year-old Colonel to withdraw his resignation.

Two Cabinet ministers — Premier Jalloud and Interior Minister Khewelidi Hamidi — are also members of the seven man Revolutionary Command Council.

Both men are majors in the Army.

The RCC comprises Army officers, most of them also majors.

—Reuter

Blast No. 2 put off

Bad weather over the test site

Wellington, Monday

Poor weather today apparently prevented France from exploding its second nuclear device in the South Pacific, according to a report from the New Zealand frigate Otago.

The first explosion over the Mururoa Atoll took place yesterday, setting off a barrage of protests around the world.

The explosion was believed to have involved a trigger described as small device for a hydrogen bomb.

When the second test failed to materialise at the expected time today and the frigate steamed further out to sea.

Parisians received news of the test with indifference. The explosion took second place in TV broadcasts and the Press.

The French Communist Party called on workers to urge the government to sign the test ban treaty against atmospheric explosions.

Most New Zealanders took the news of the blast calmly.

There were no protests and police reported "all quiet" in the capital. Today's newspapers gave prominence to an English Rugby Union tour of New Zealand.

In **PAPEETE**, a Tahitian parliamentarian lowered the French flag to half-staff yesterday in protest against the first nuclear test and vowed to end to Tahiti's colonial ties with France.

Mr. Francis Sanford lowered the flag at his district—FAA commune.

The population in Tahiti did not appear too concerned about the blast, but Mr. Sanford cabled President Pompidou, stating:

"If France continues nuclear tests in our area, we will ask for the intervention of the UN and introduce in Parliament a referendum on the independence of French Polynesia."

Tahiti is part of French Polynesia, a group of islands in the South Pacific and one of France's few remaining overseas territories.

Authorities in Paris refused as usual to confirm Saturday's test. A Defence Ministry spokesman merely said:

"All experiments of this nature are bound by the secrets of national defence."

A French government official in Papeete, however, disclosed at a Press conference that the blast had taken place.

—UPI and Reuter

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